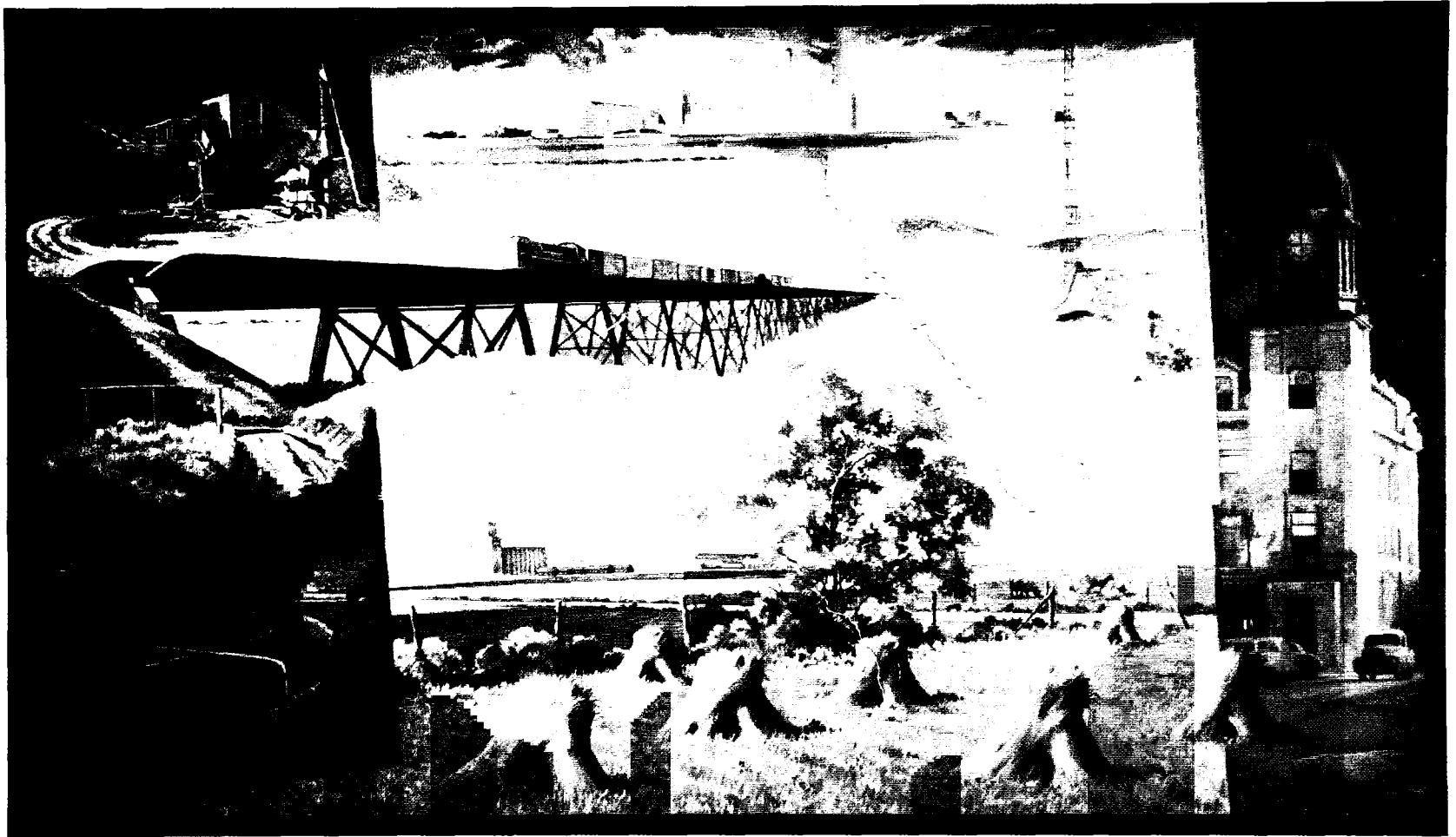


LETHBRIDGE



A CENTENNIAL HISTORY

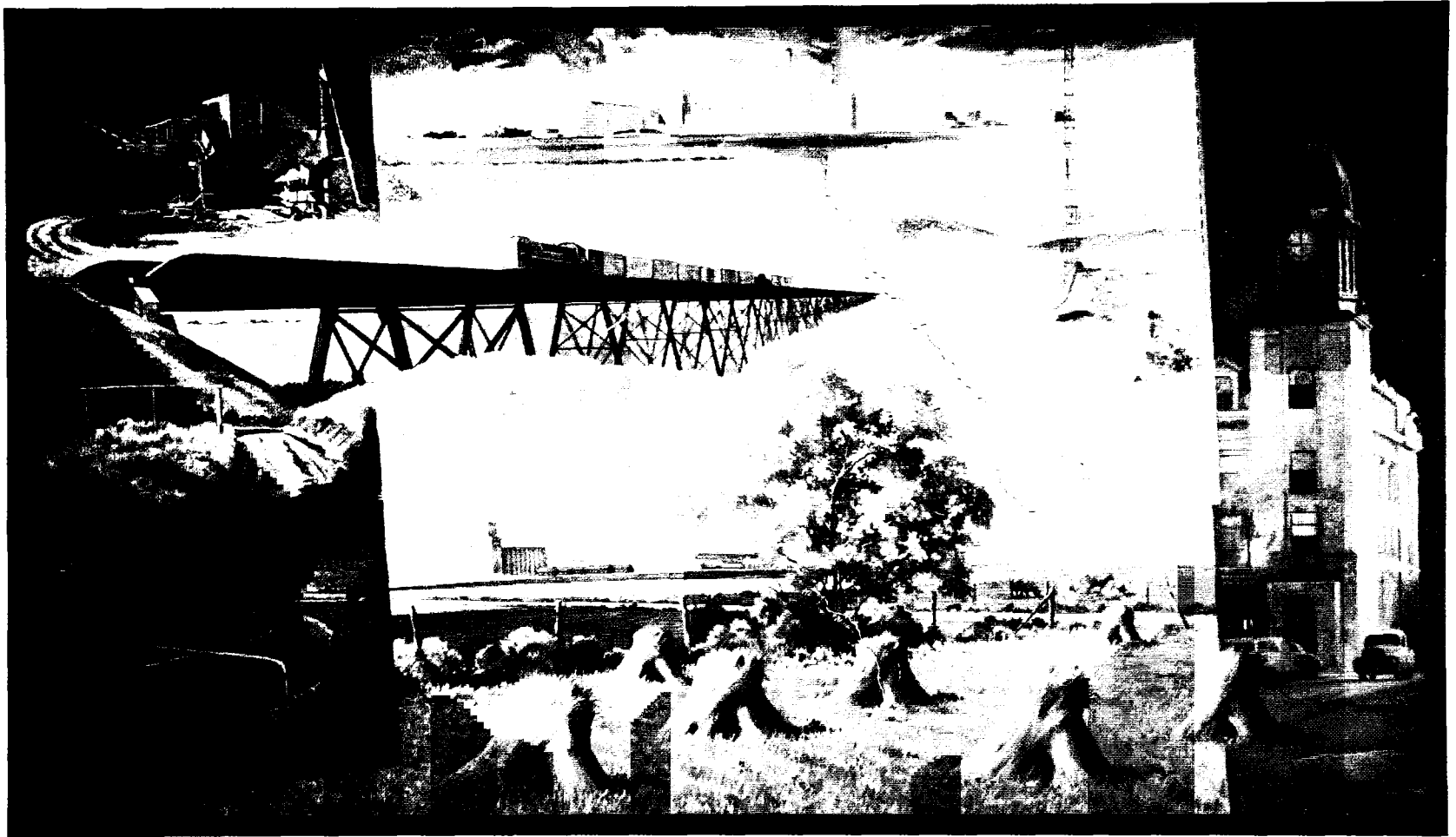
Alex Johnston/Andy den Otter

Cover Illustration

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Color photograph by Edward A. (Ed) Keeling, A. E. Cross Studio; permission to use the mural courtesy of Don Frache, artist, and BelCor Hotels Ltd., owner of the Marquis Hotel.

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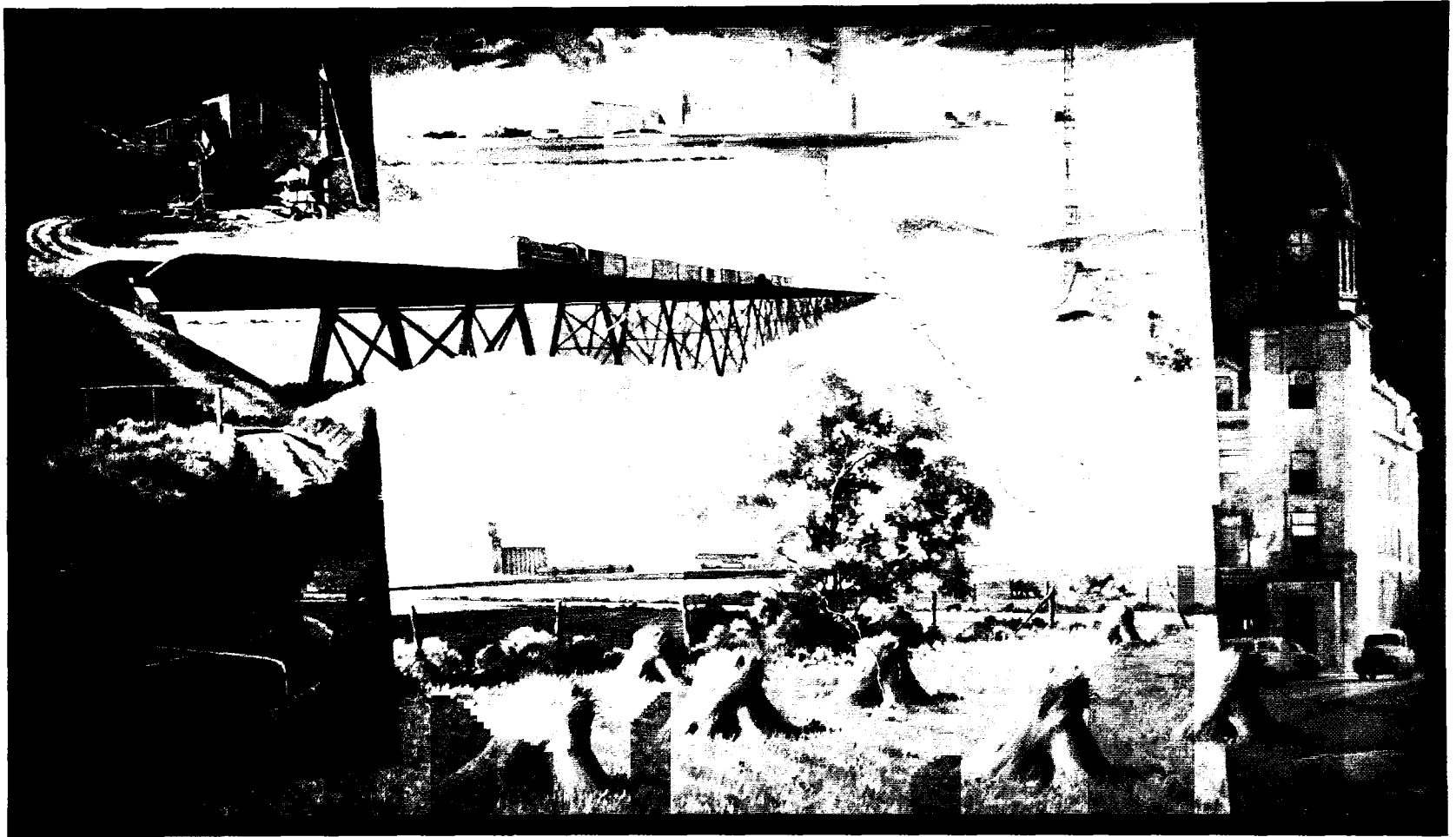
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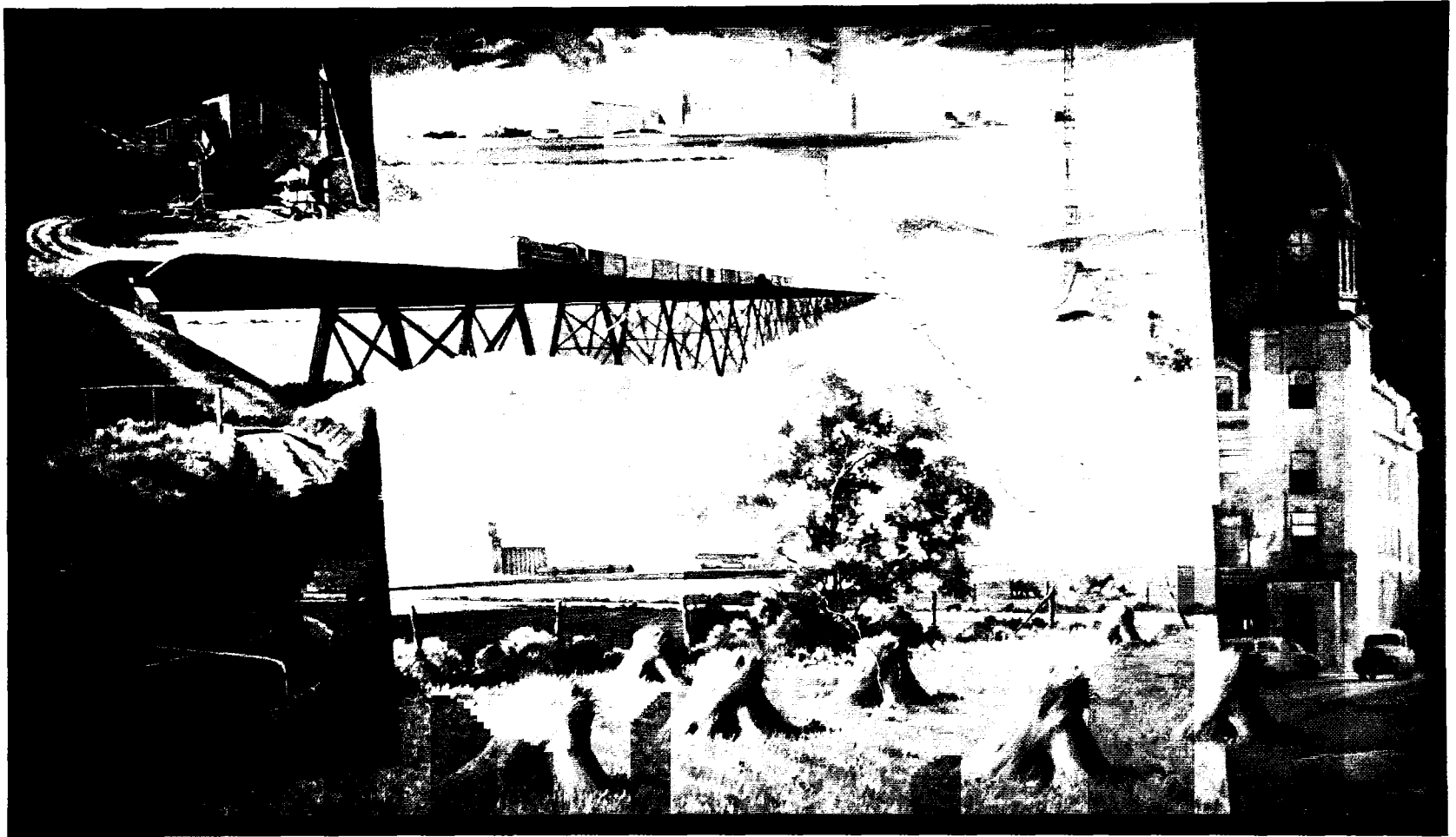
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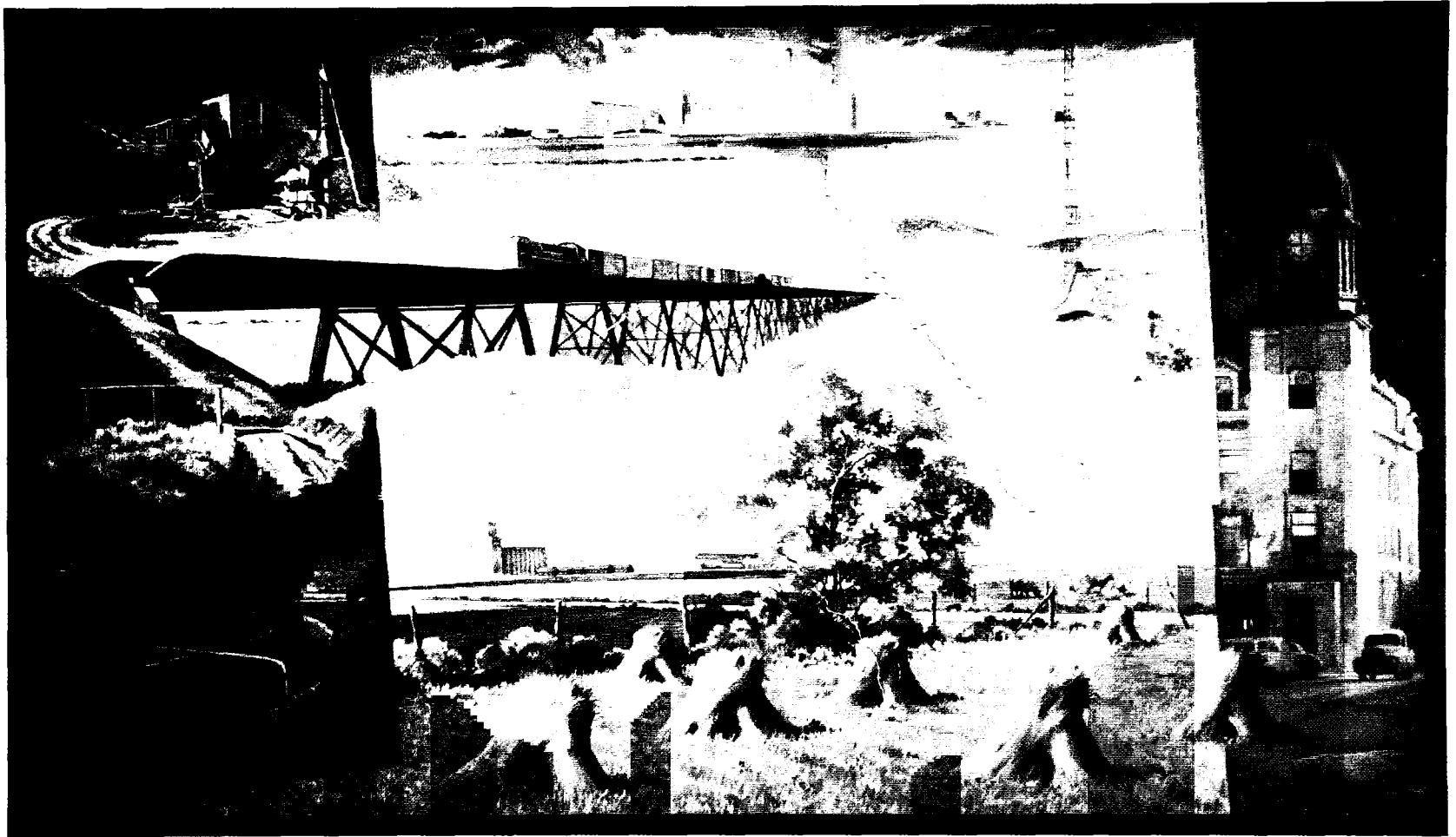
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Chapter One

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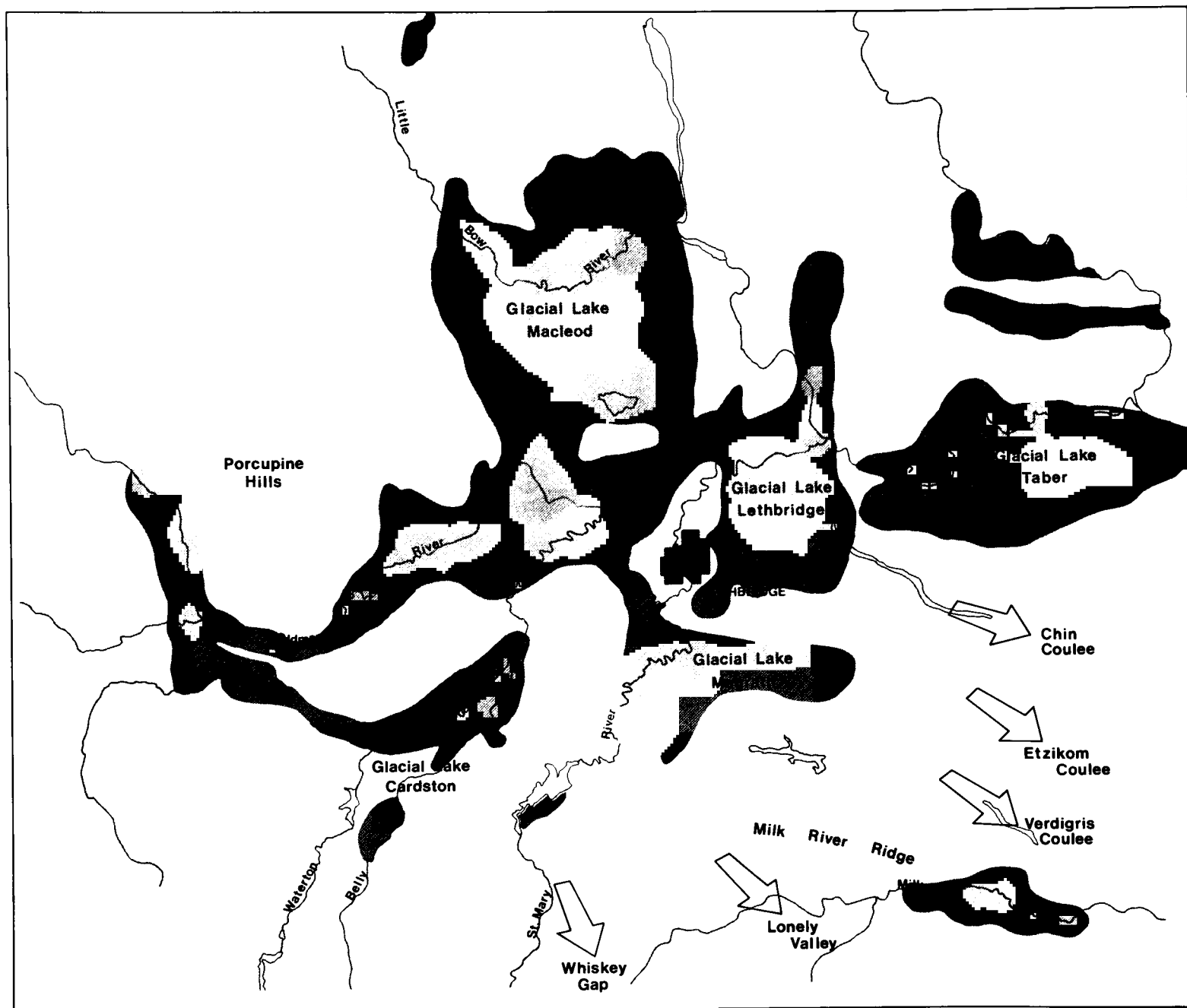
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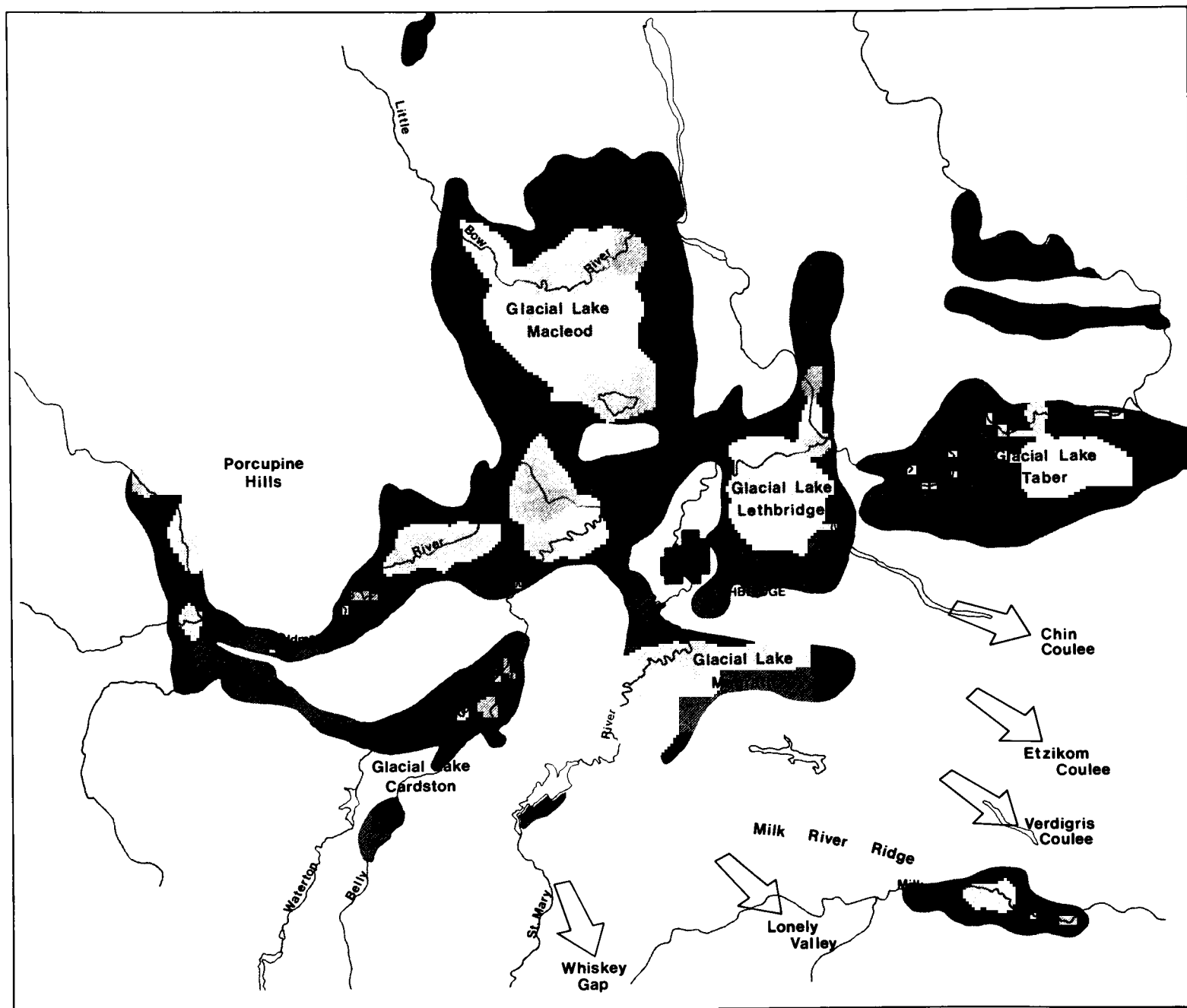
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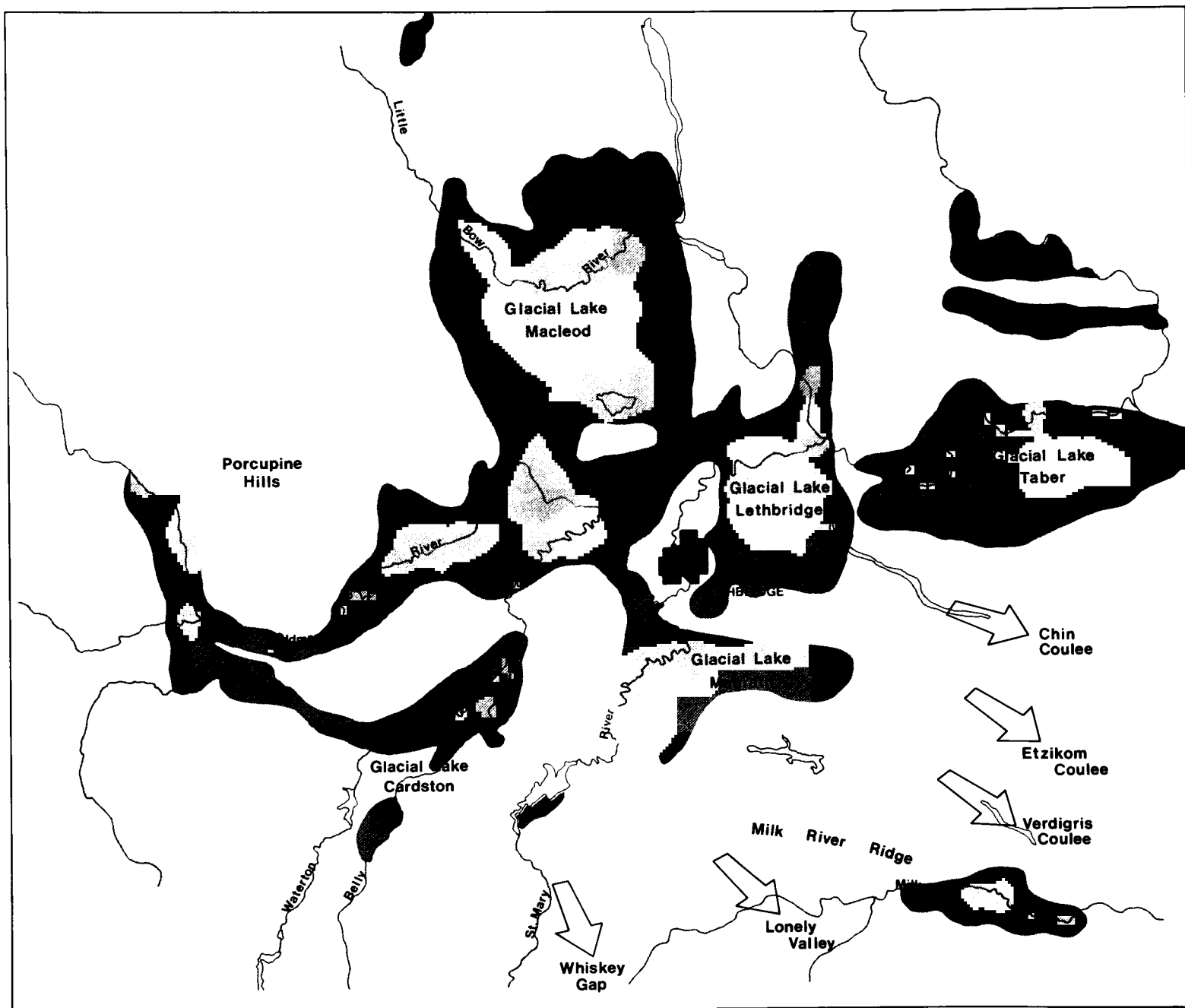
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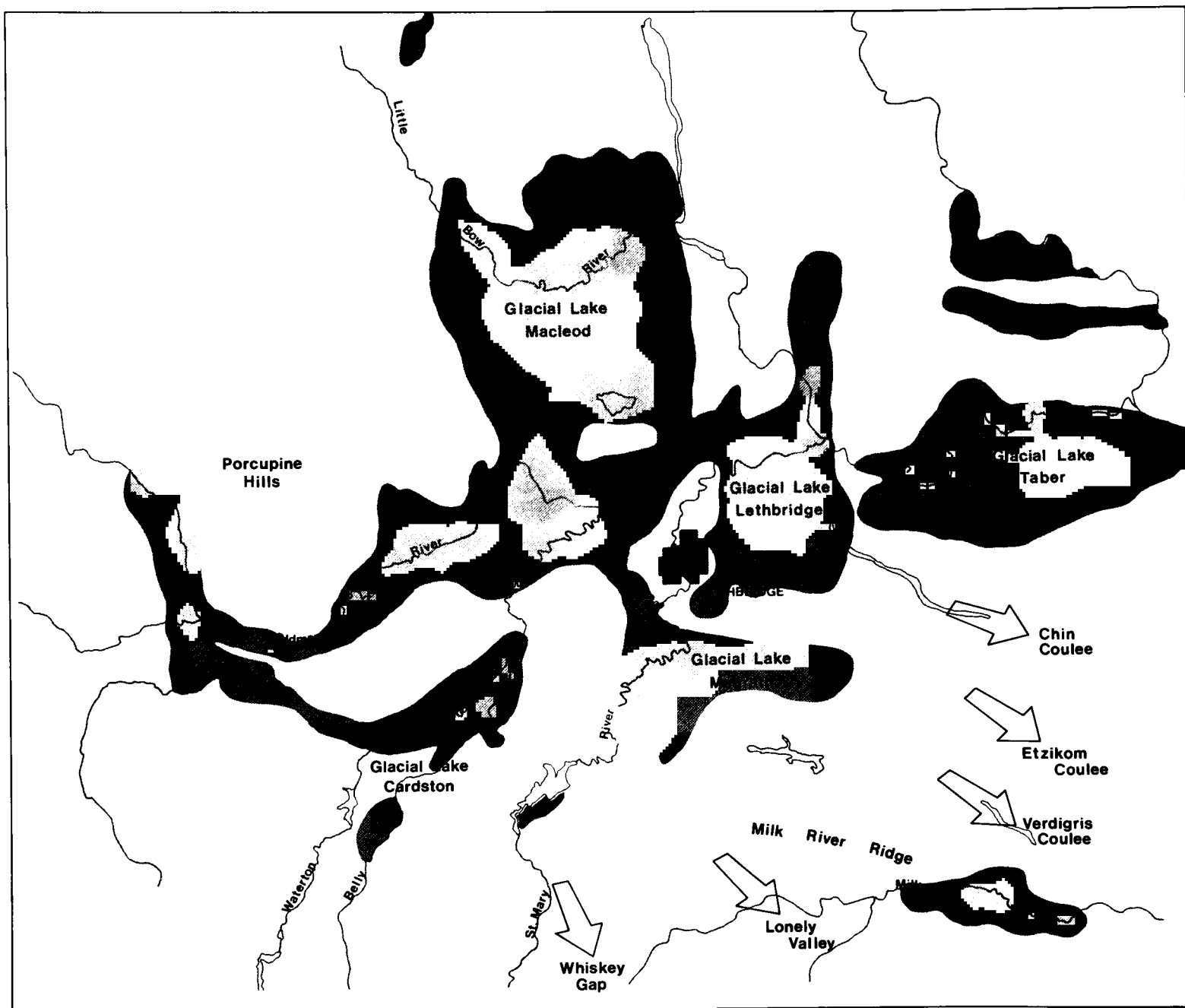
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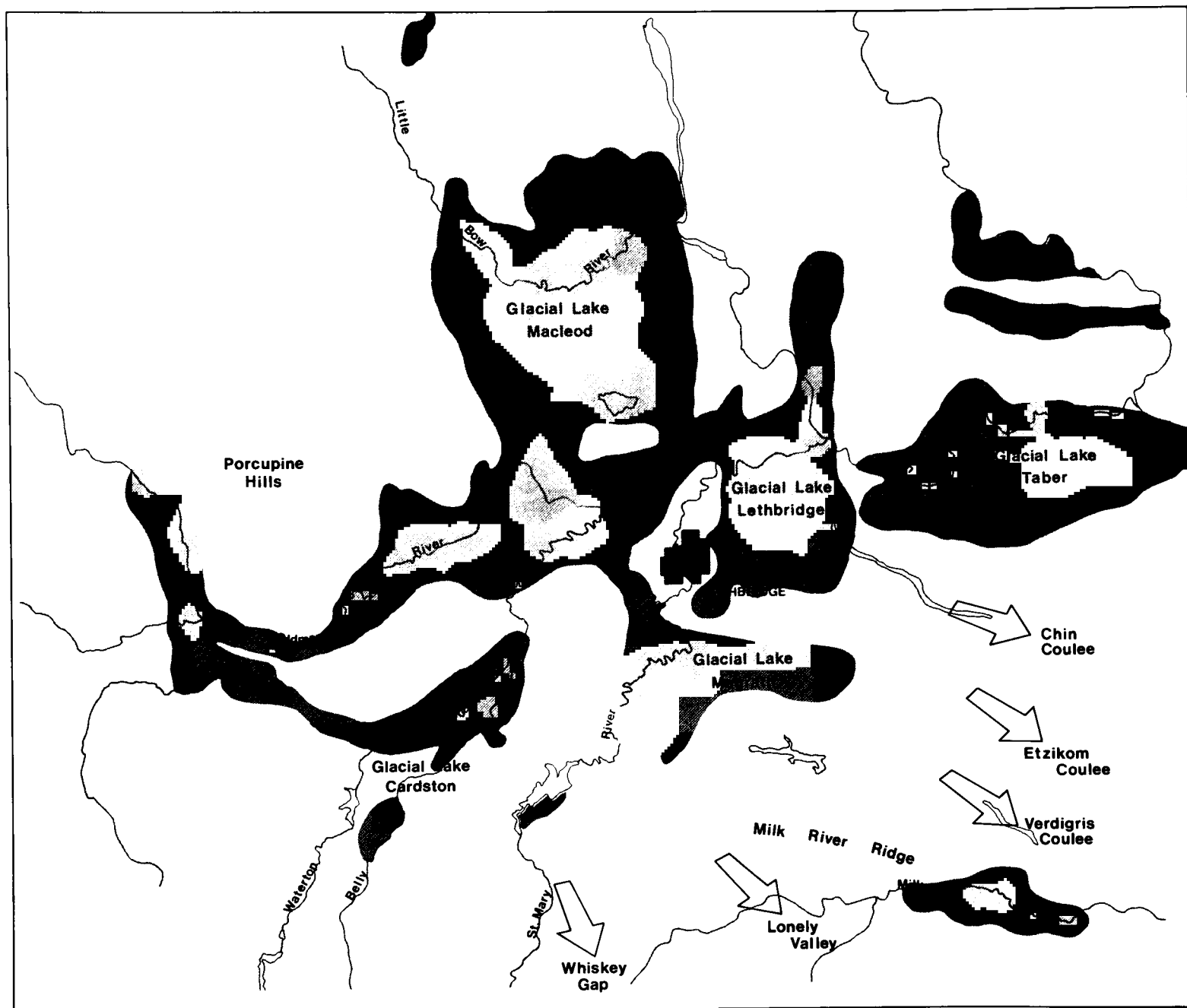
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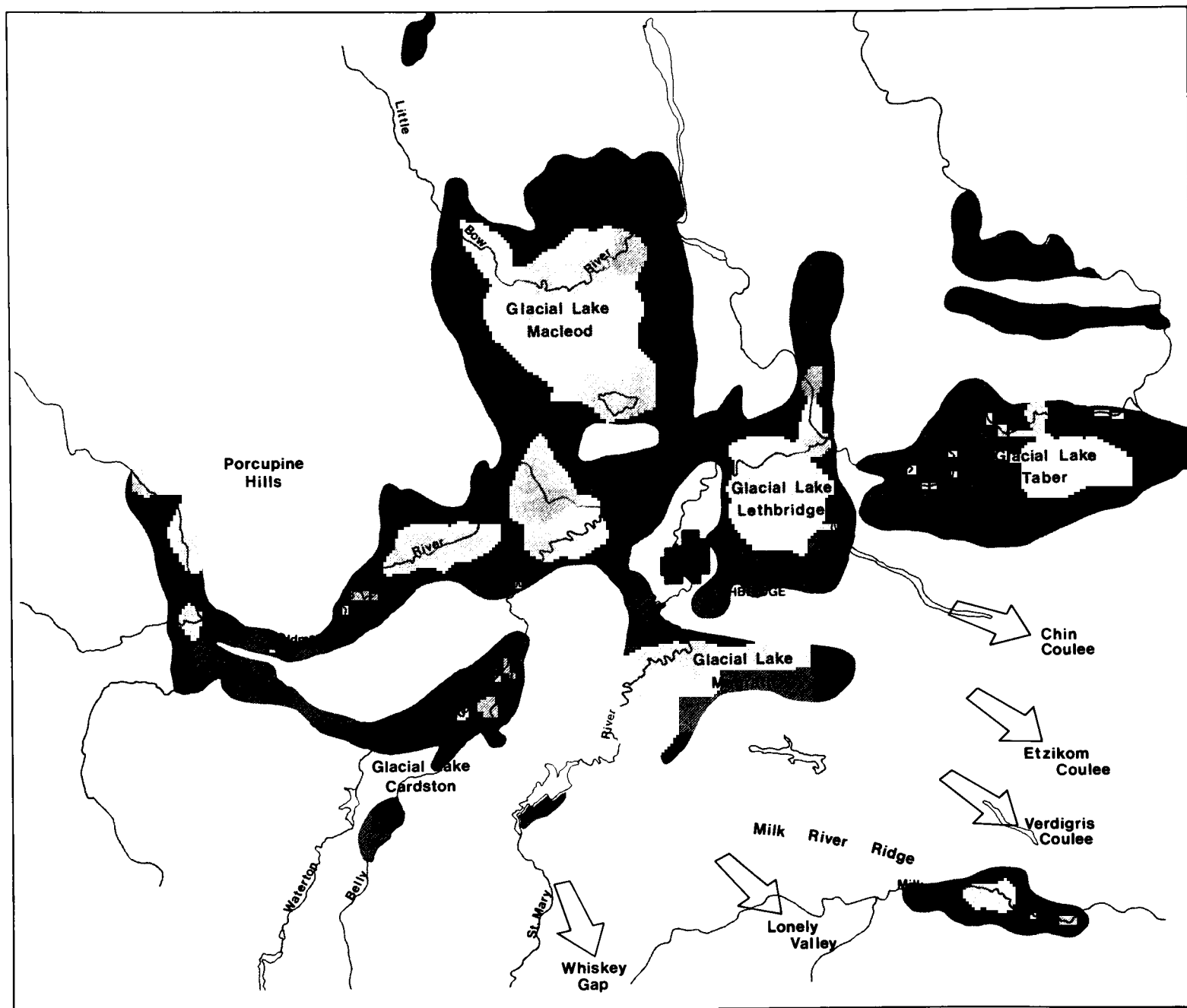
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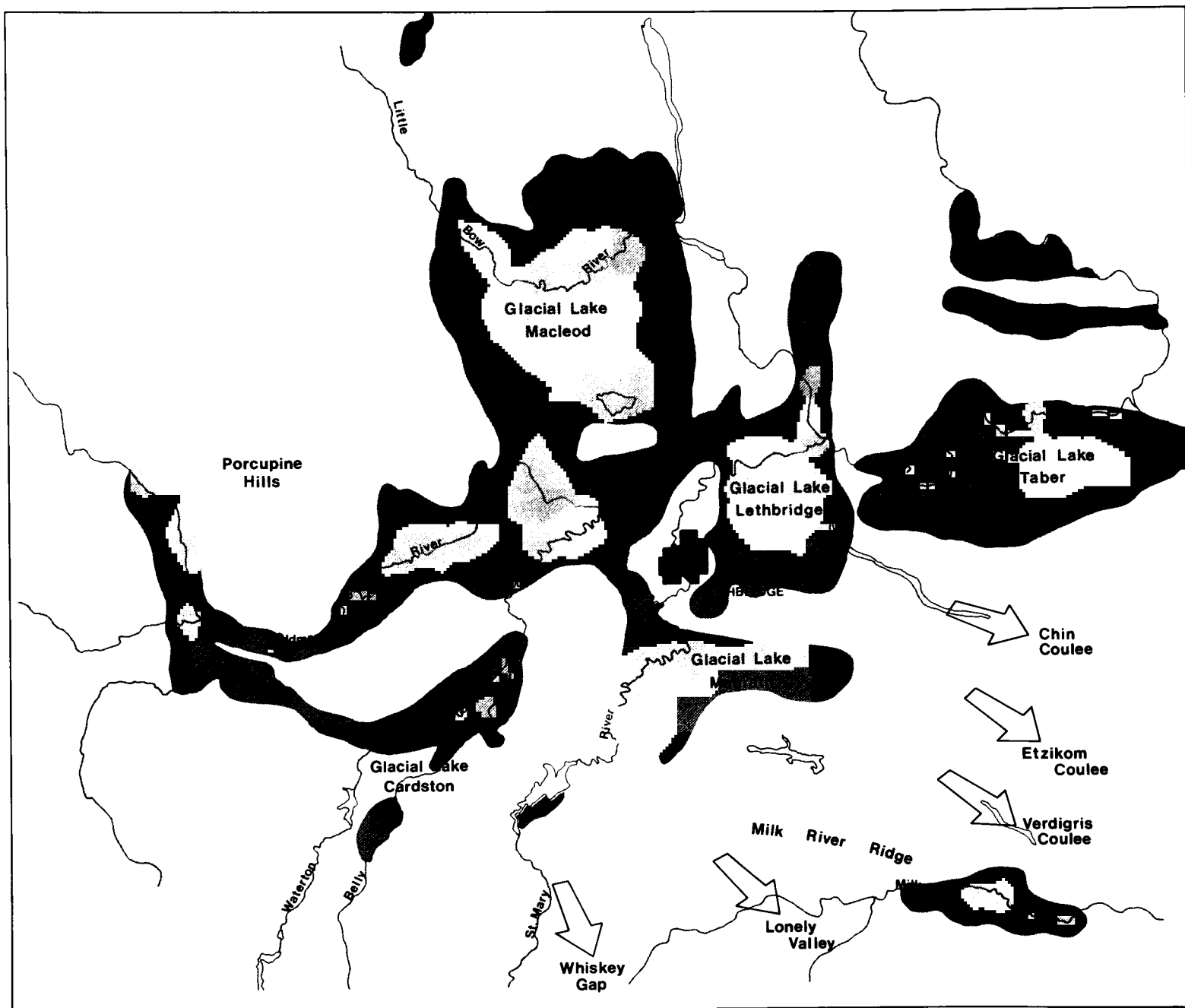
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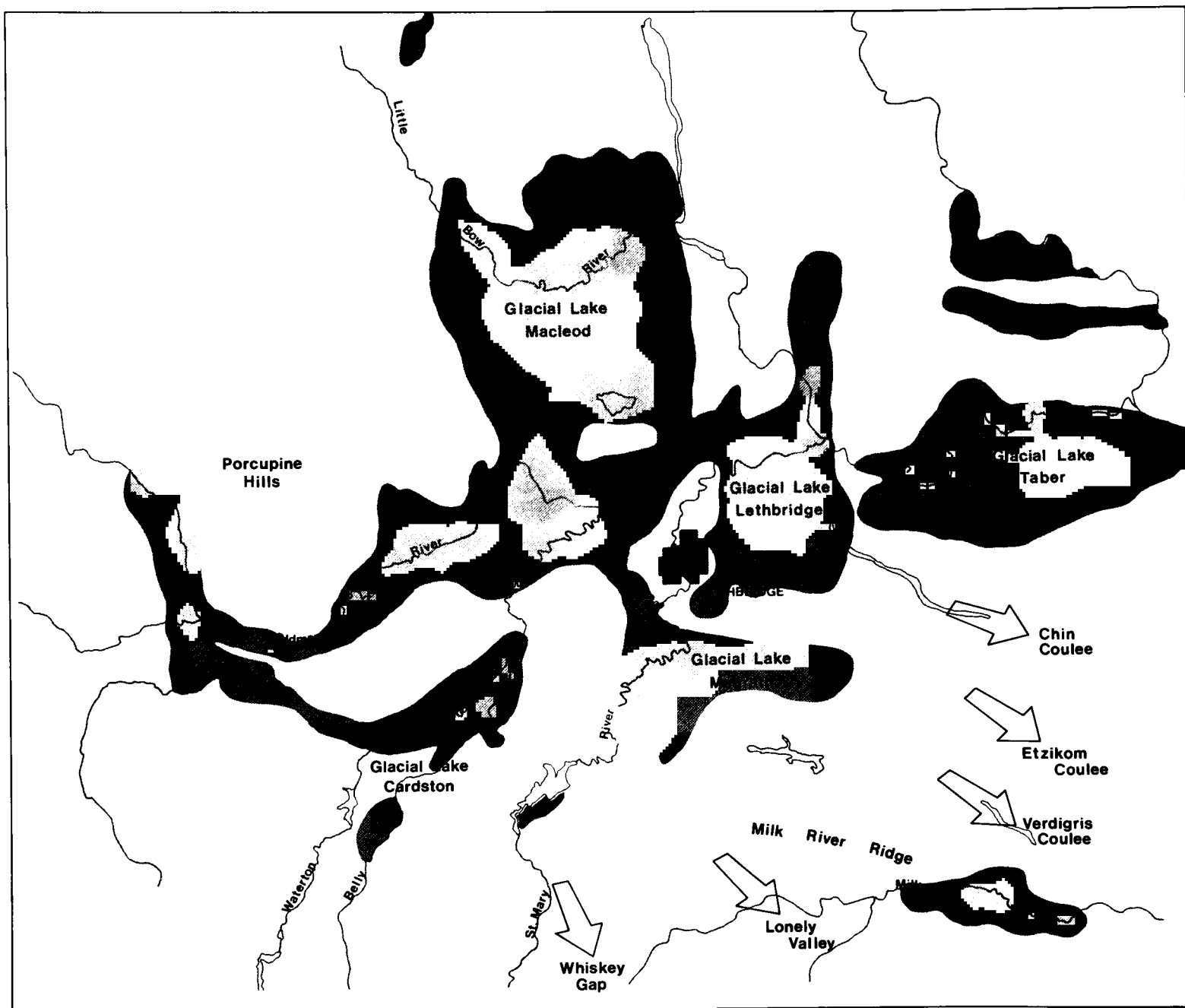
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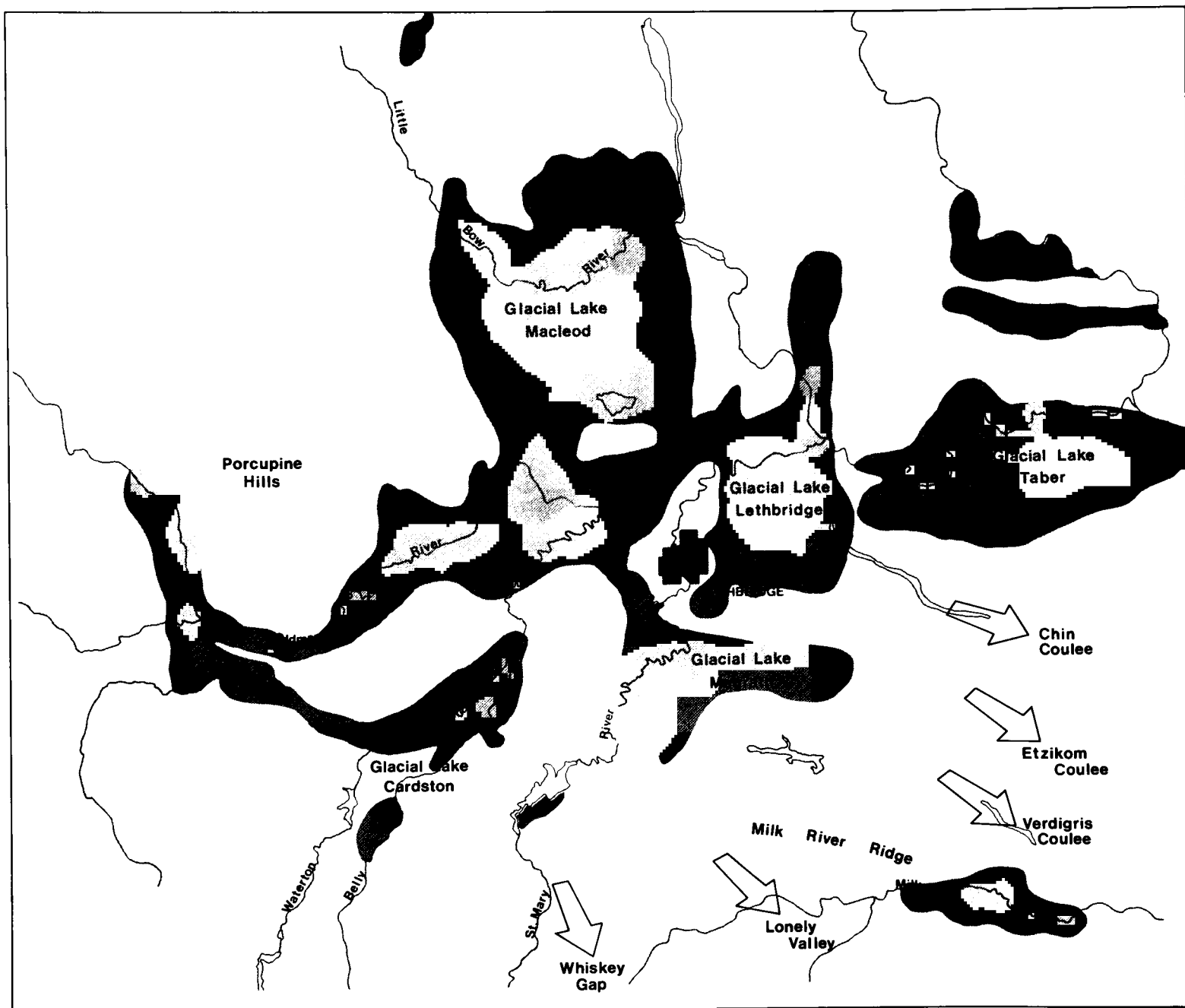
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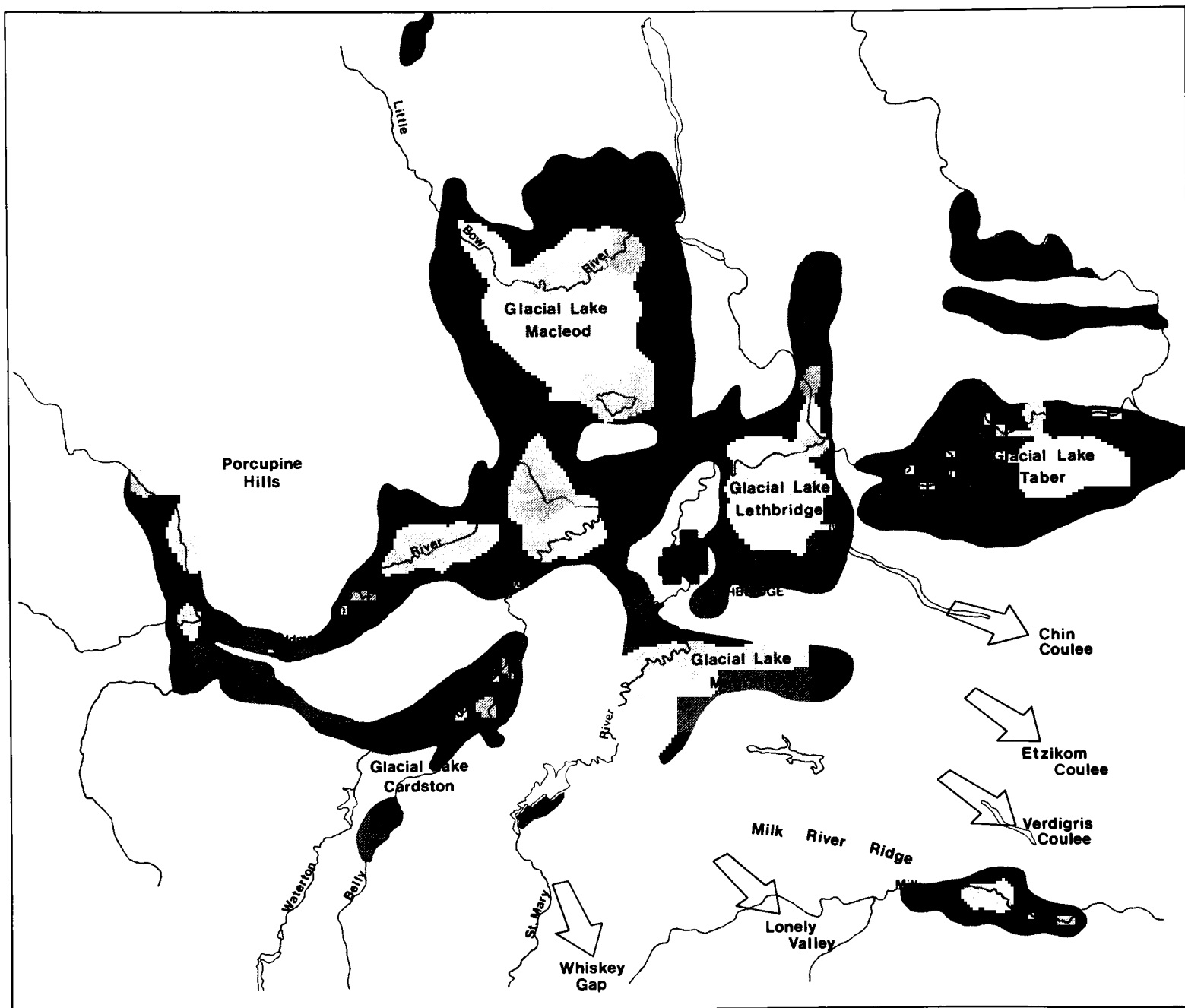
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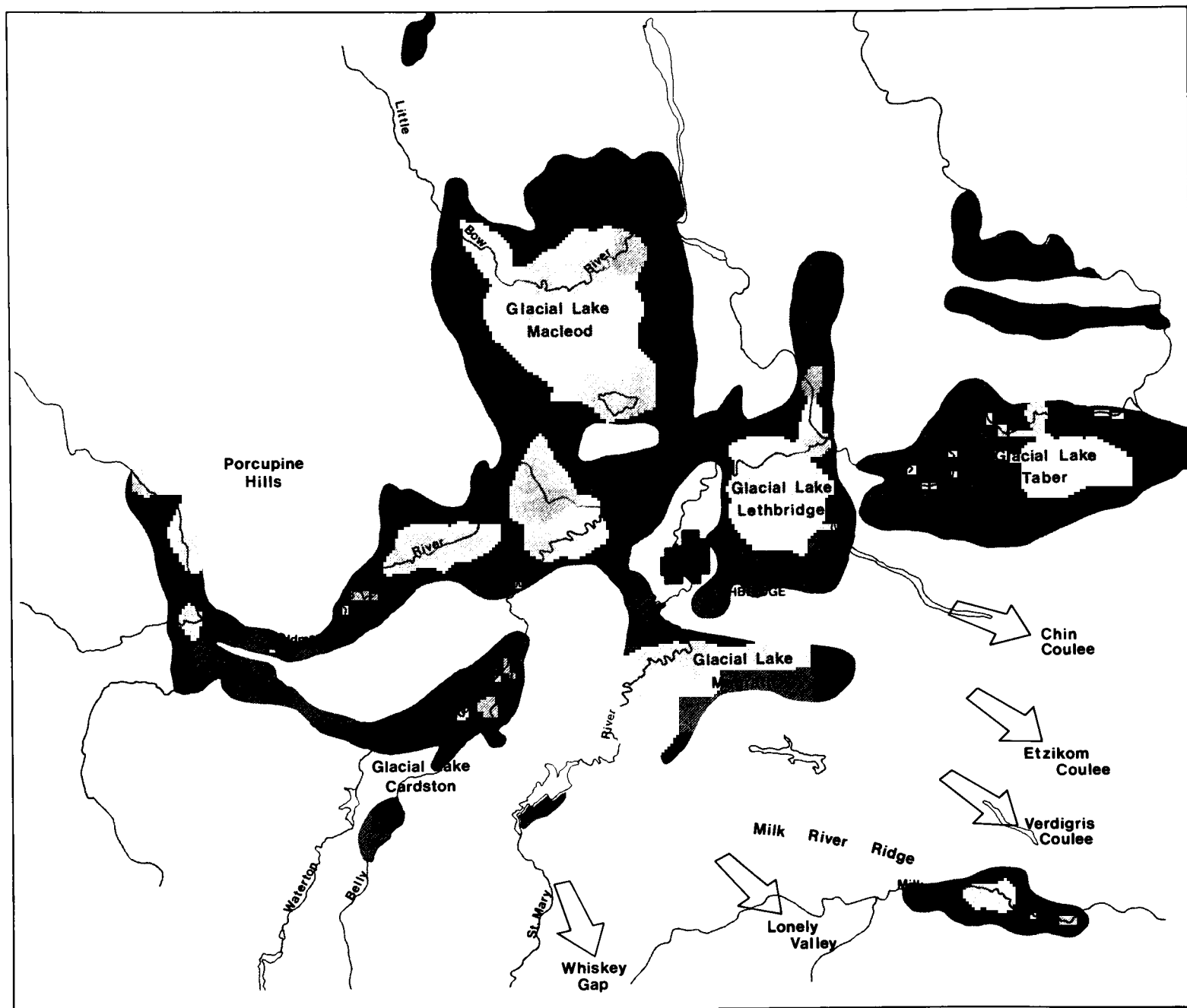
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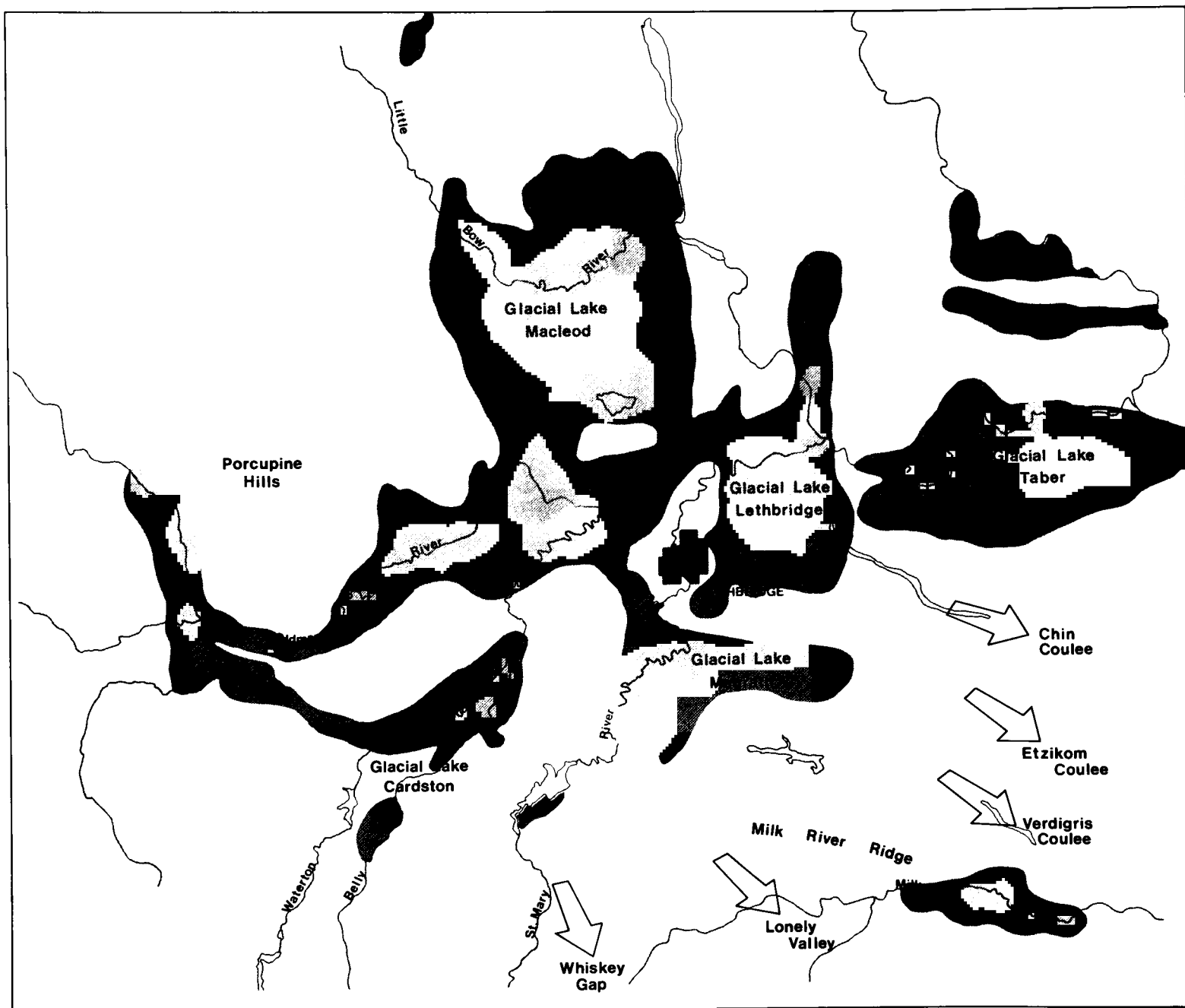
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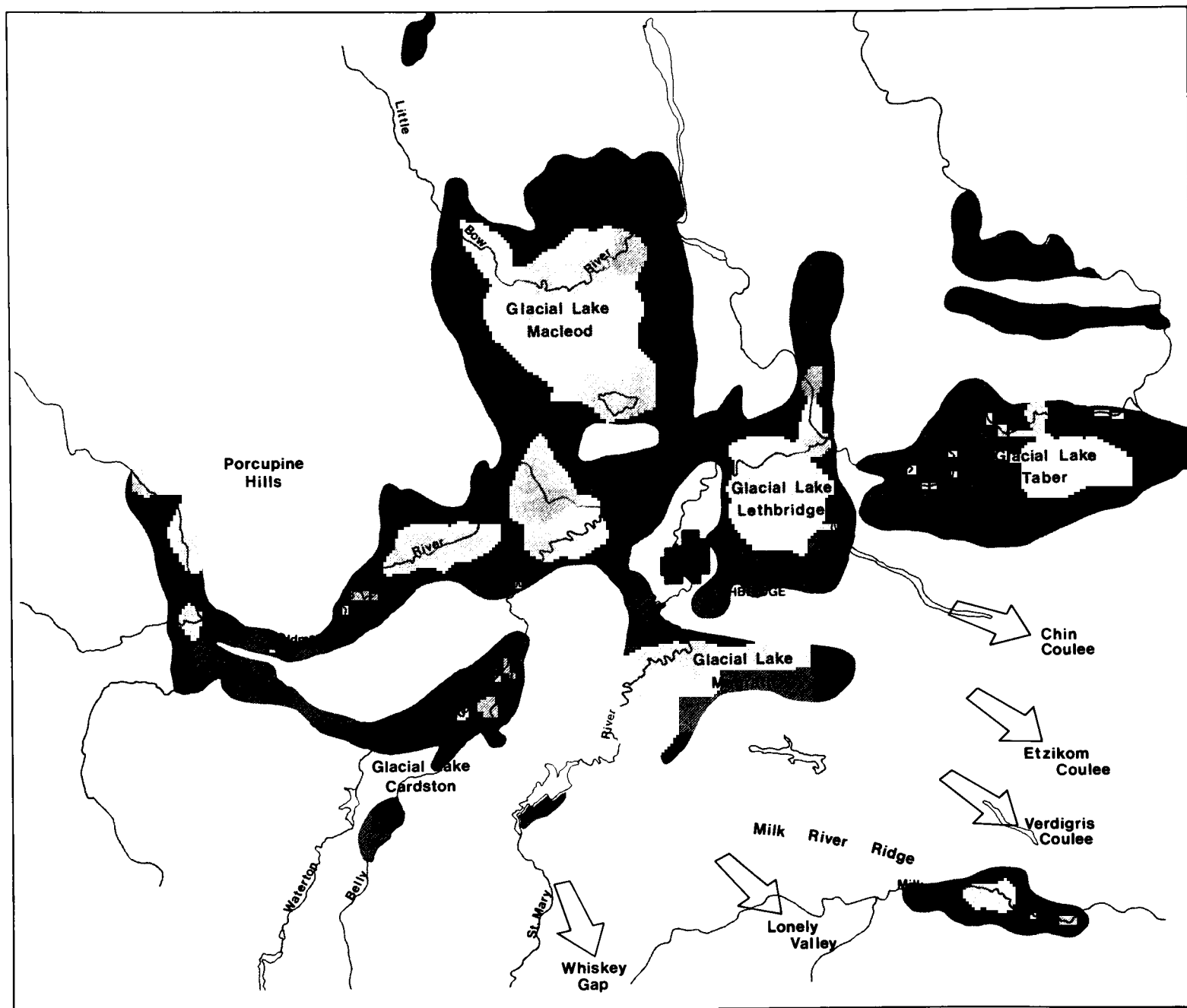
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Origins of Wealth

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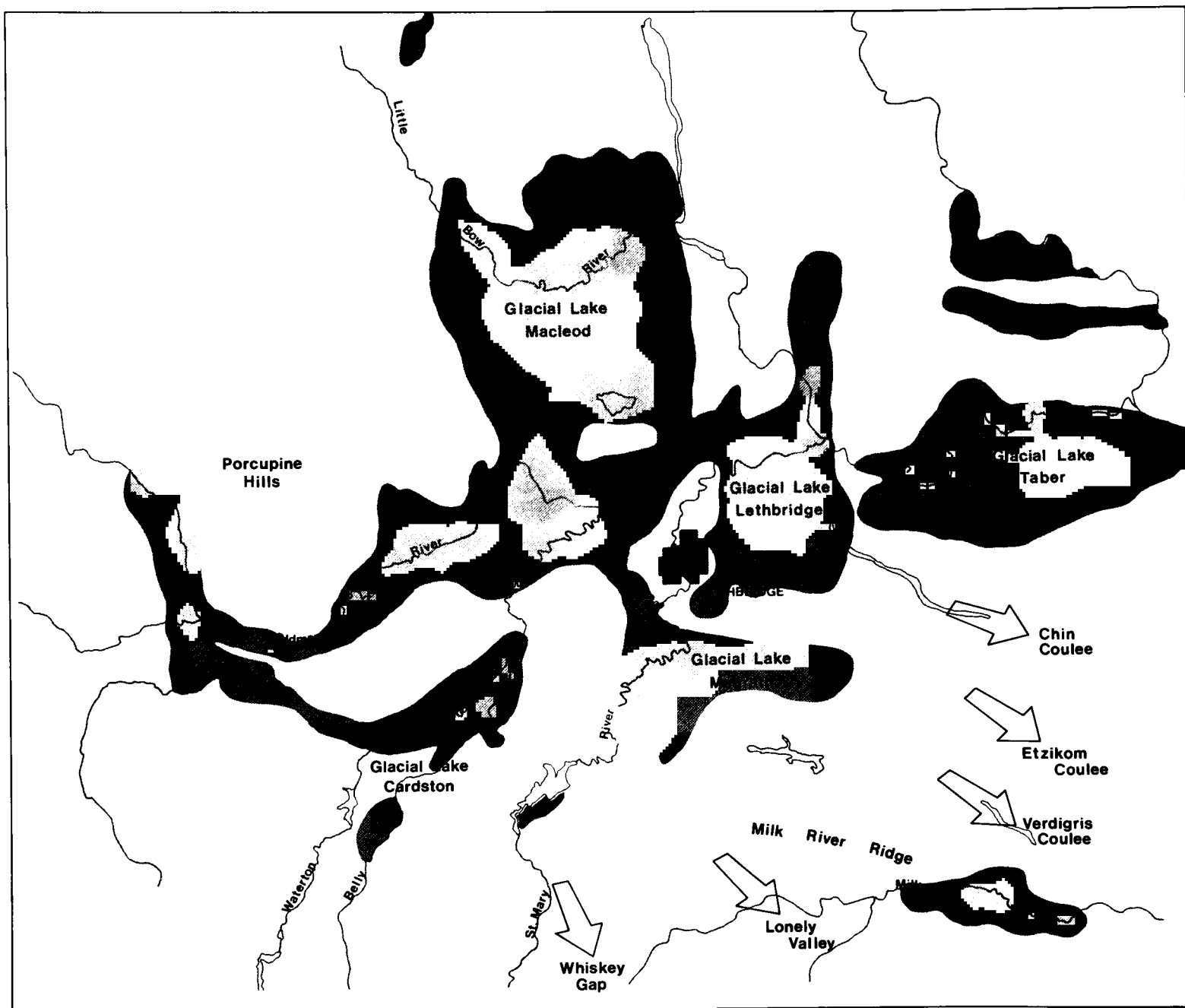
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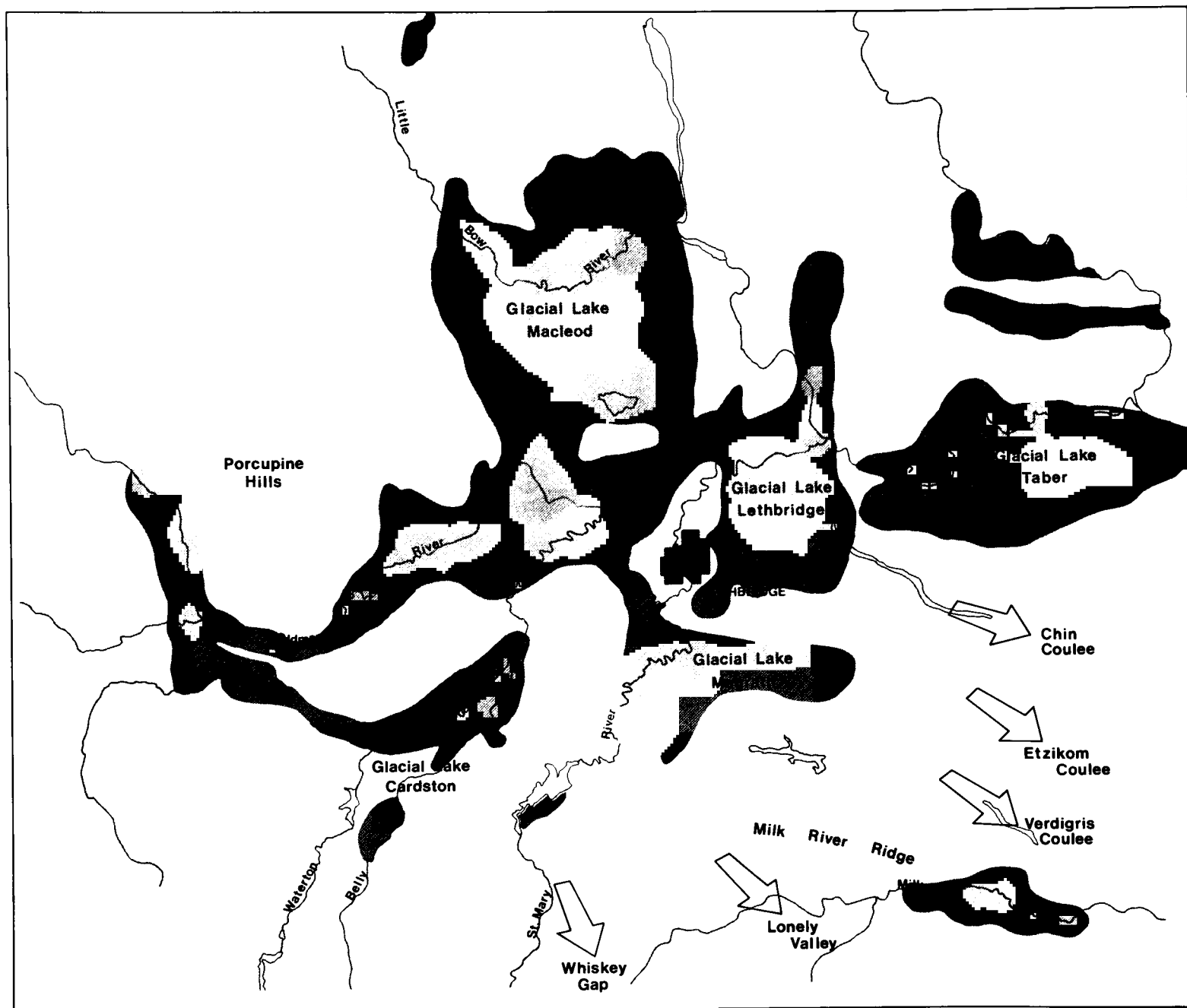
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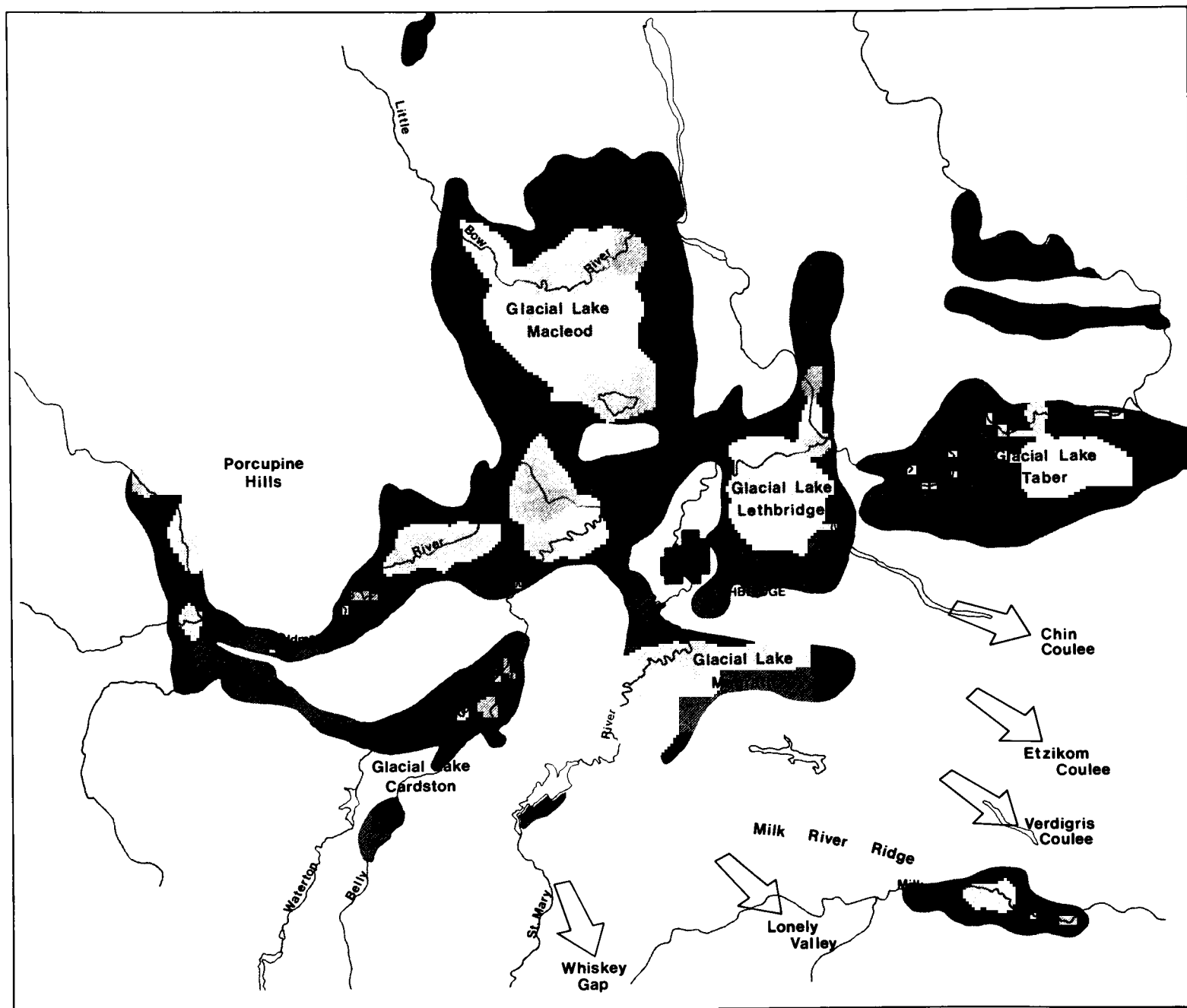
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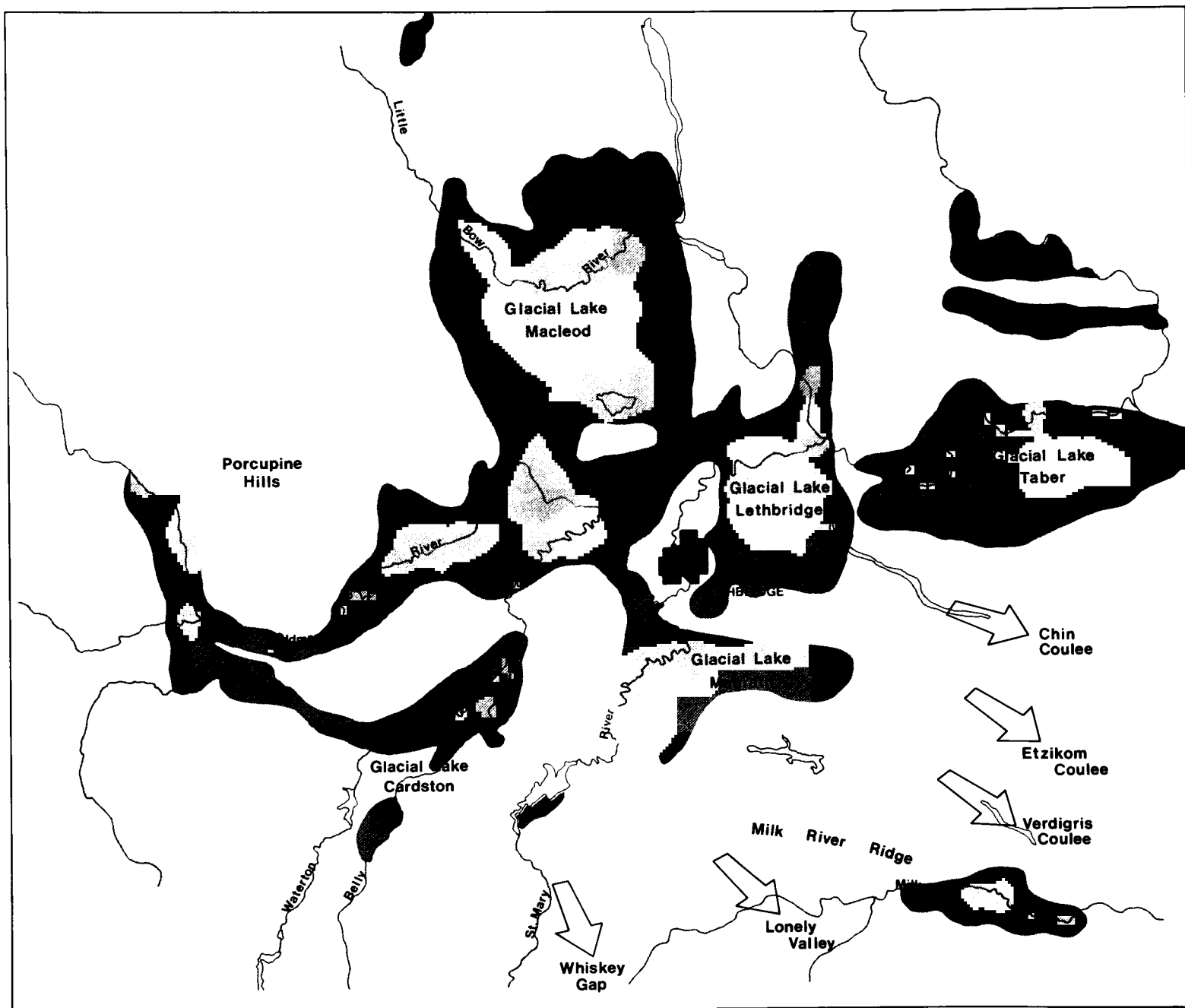
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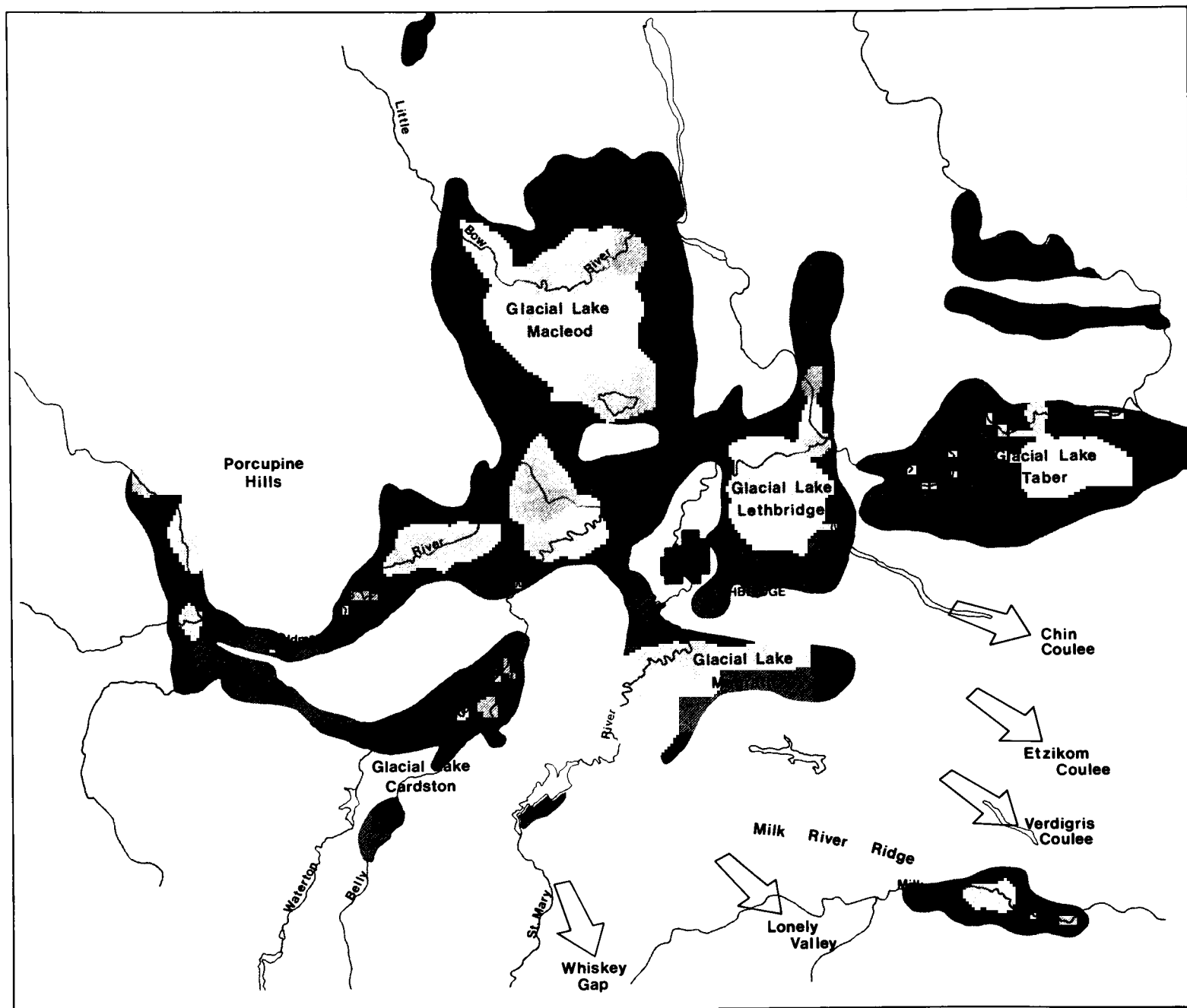
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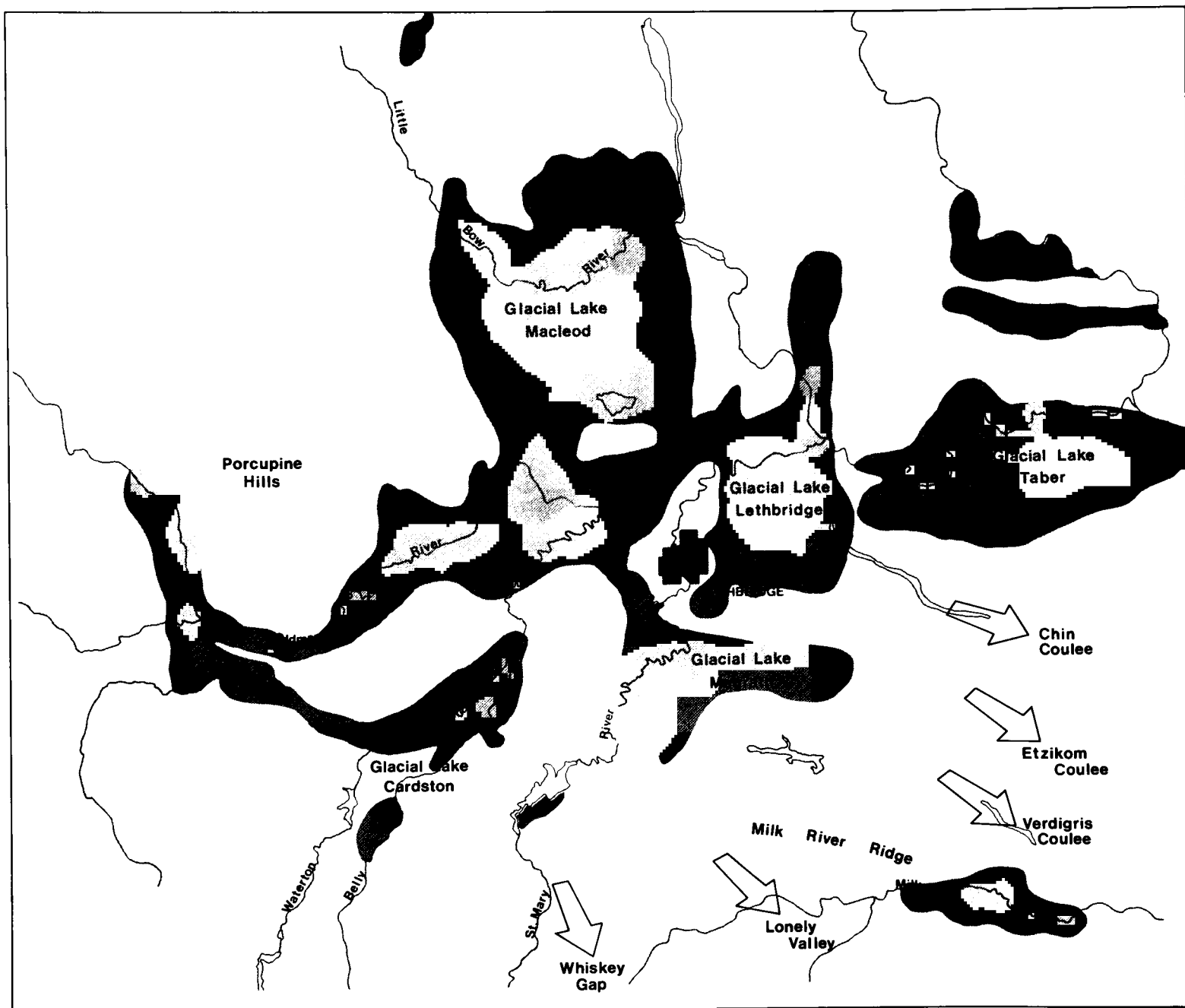
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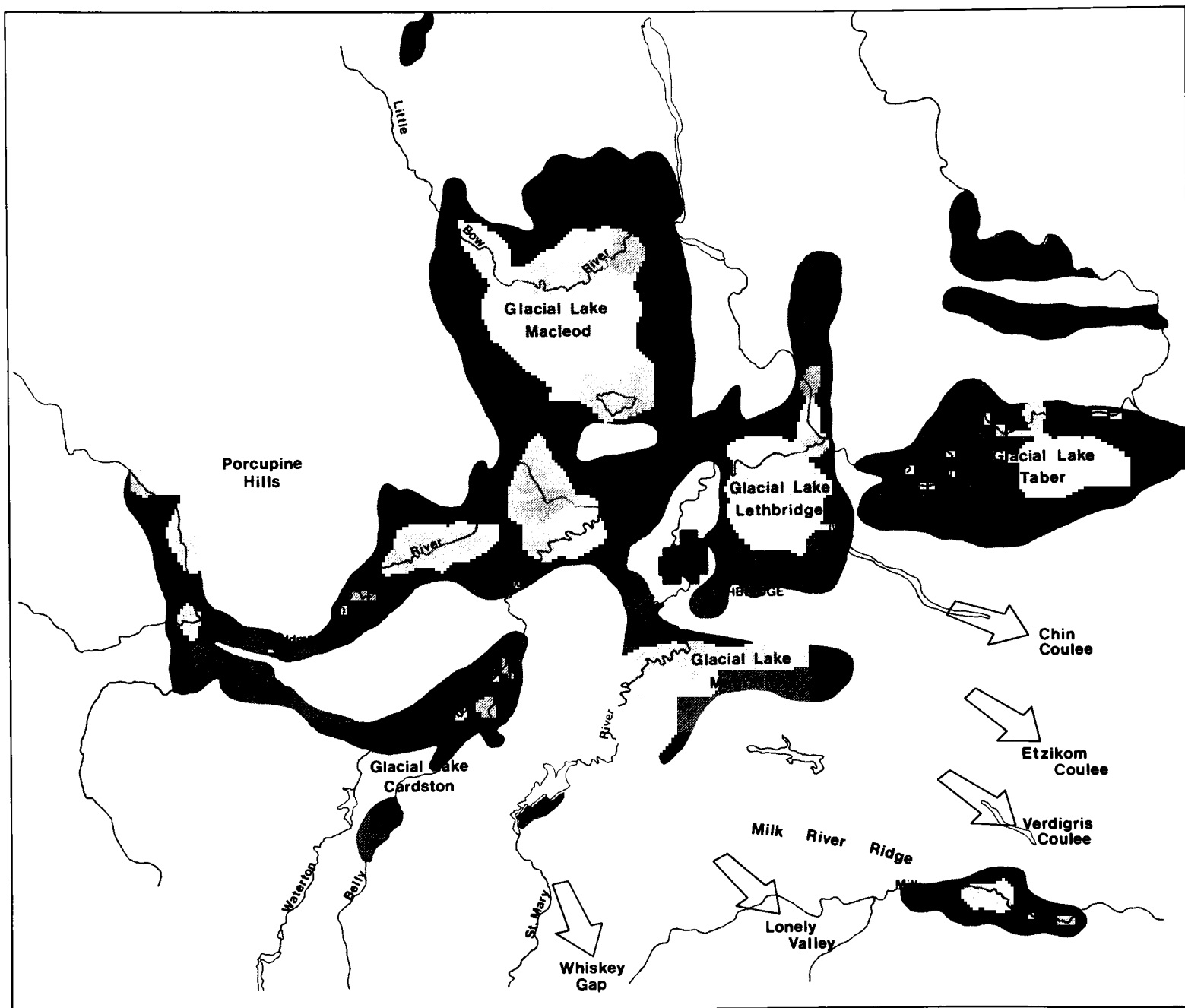
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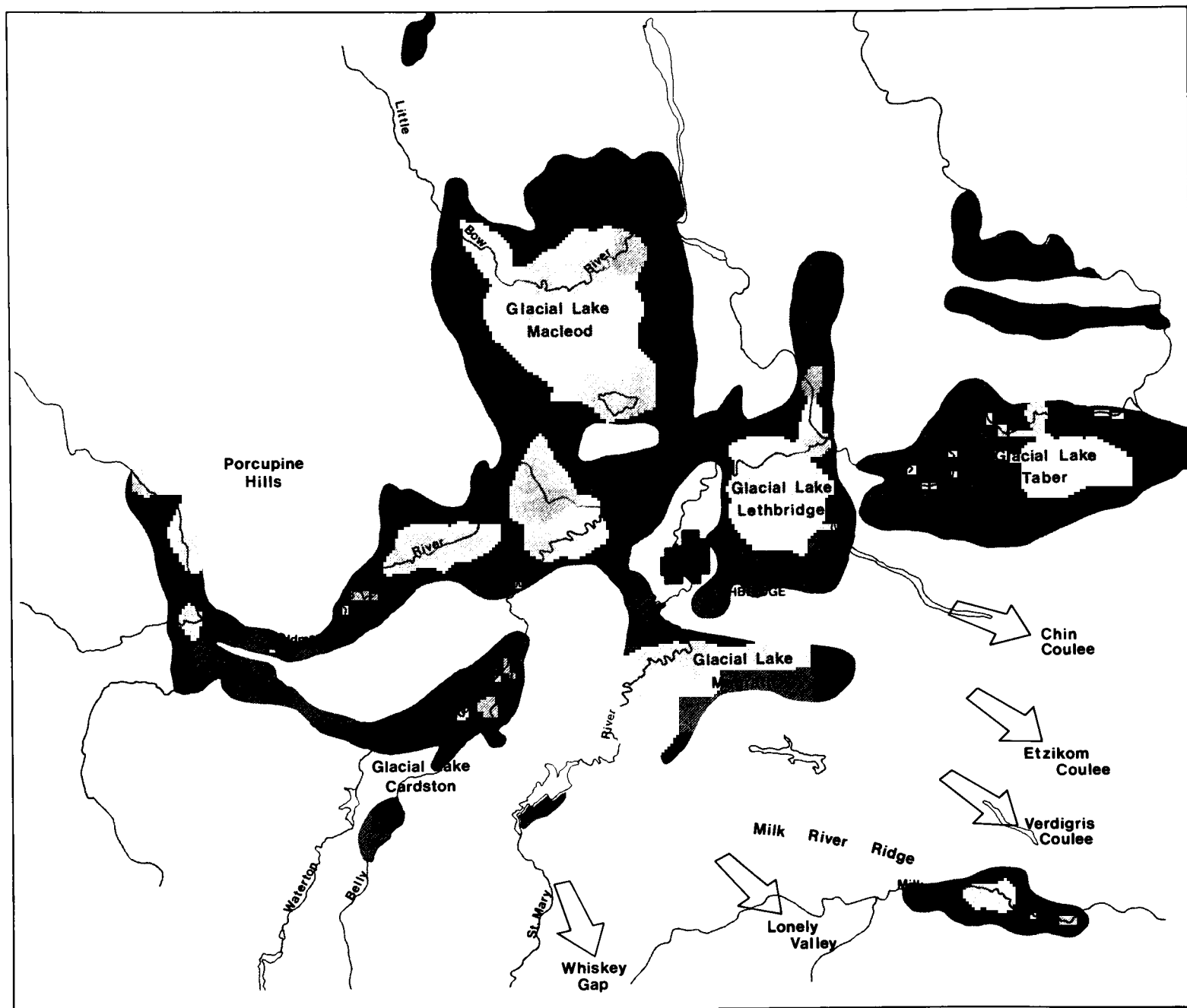
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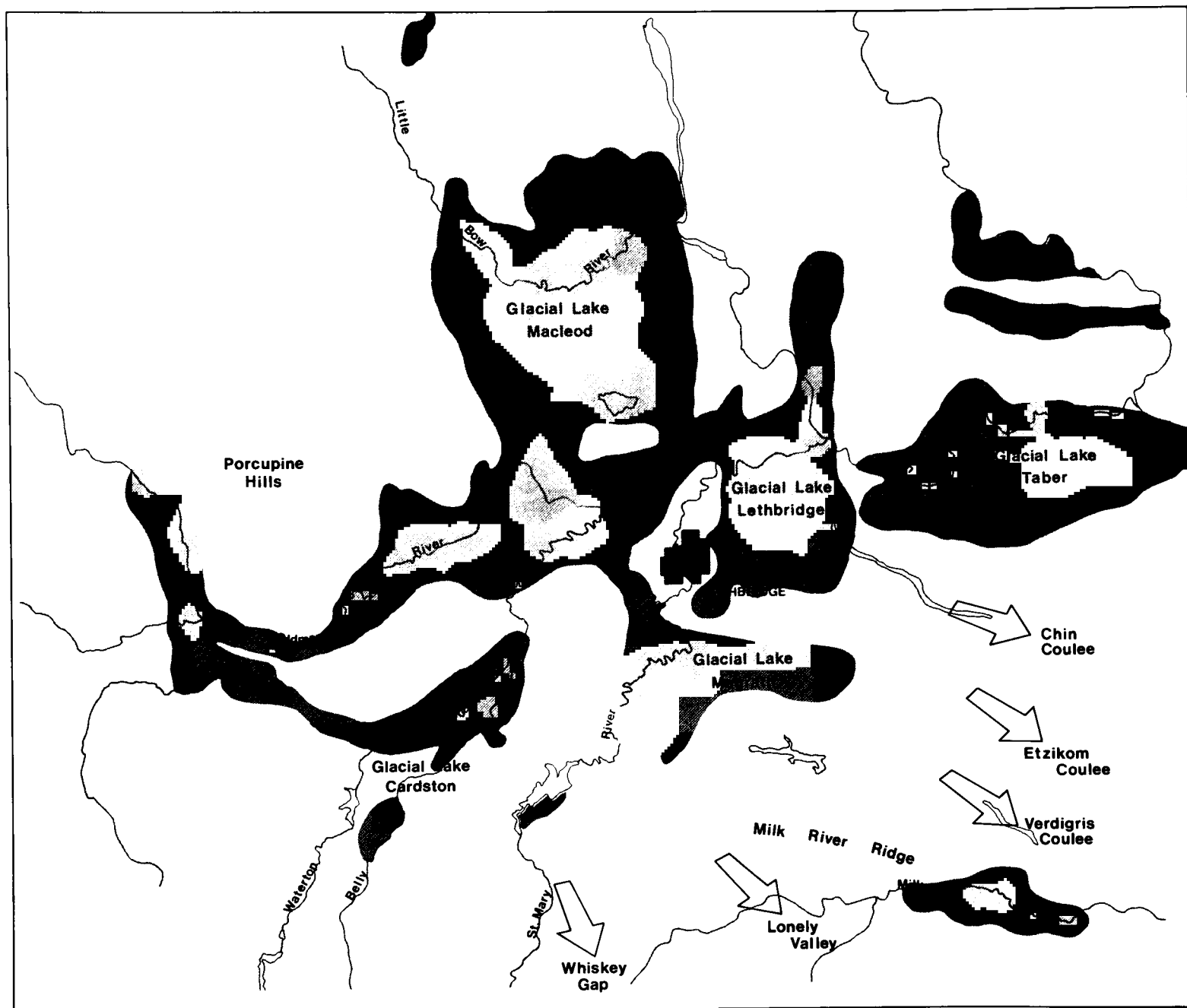
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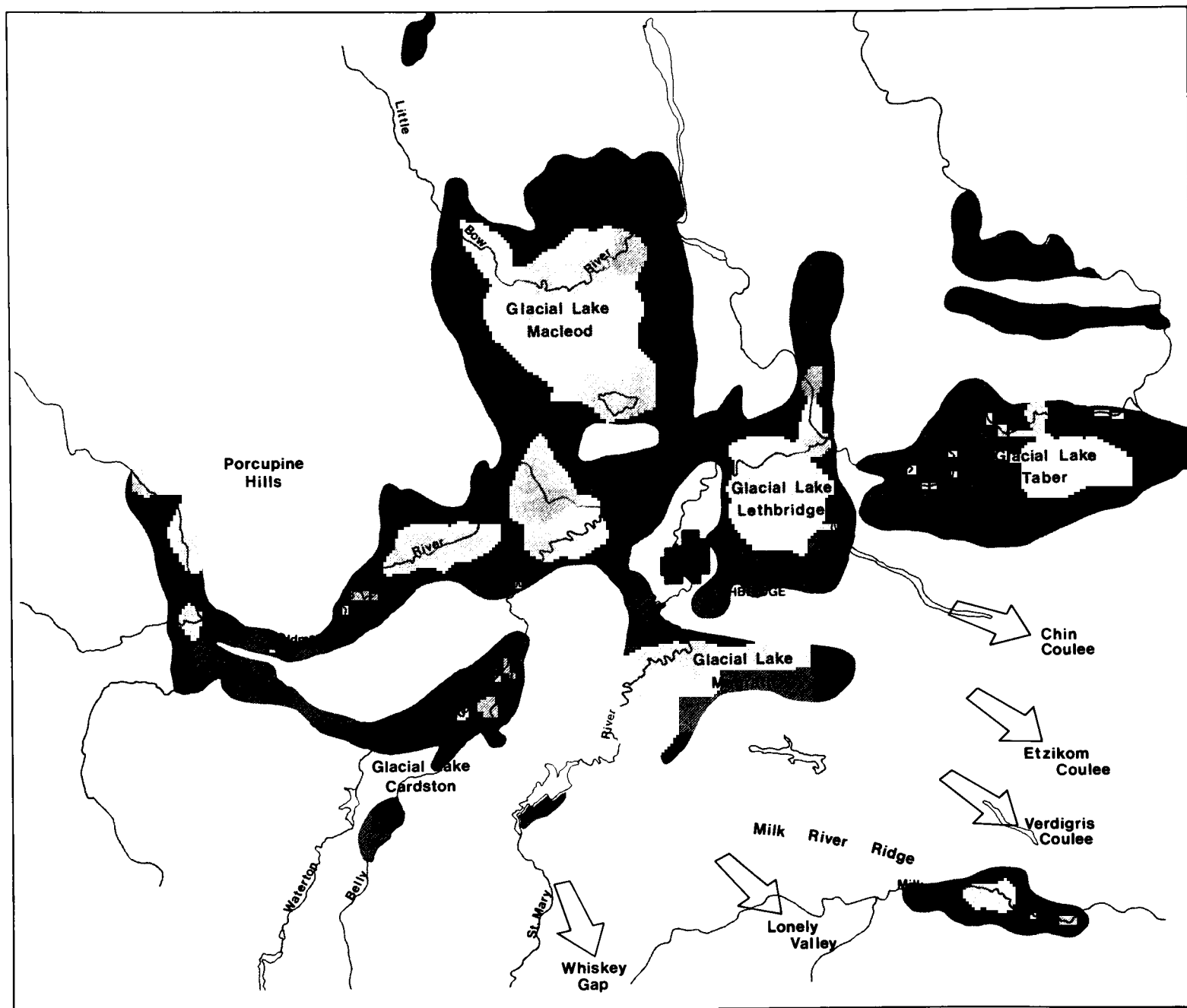
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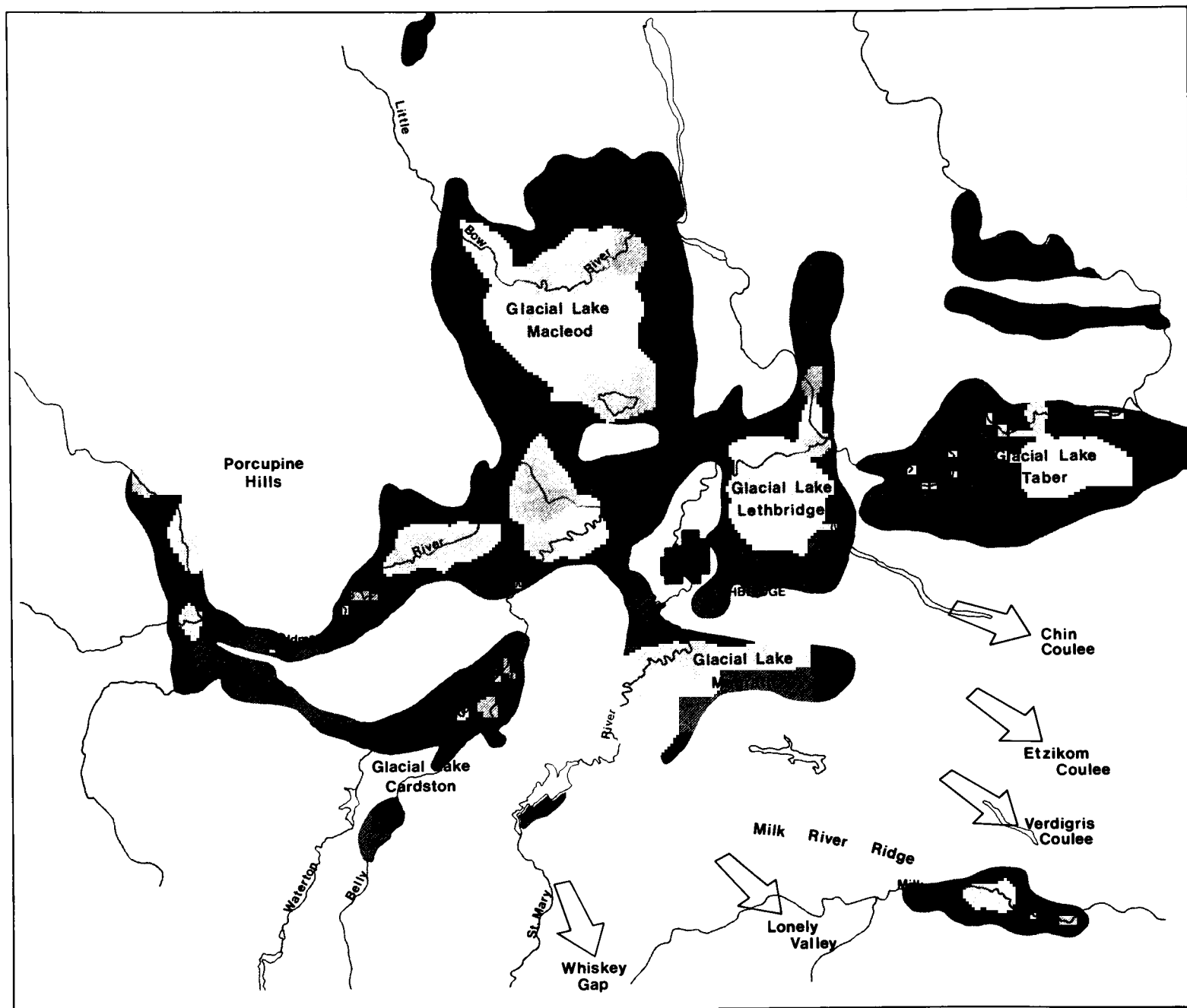
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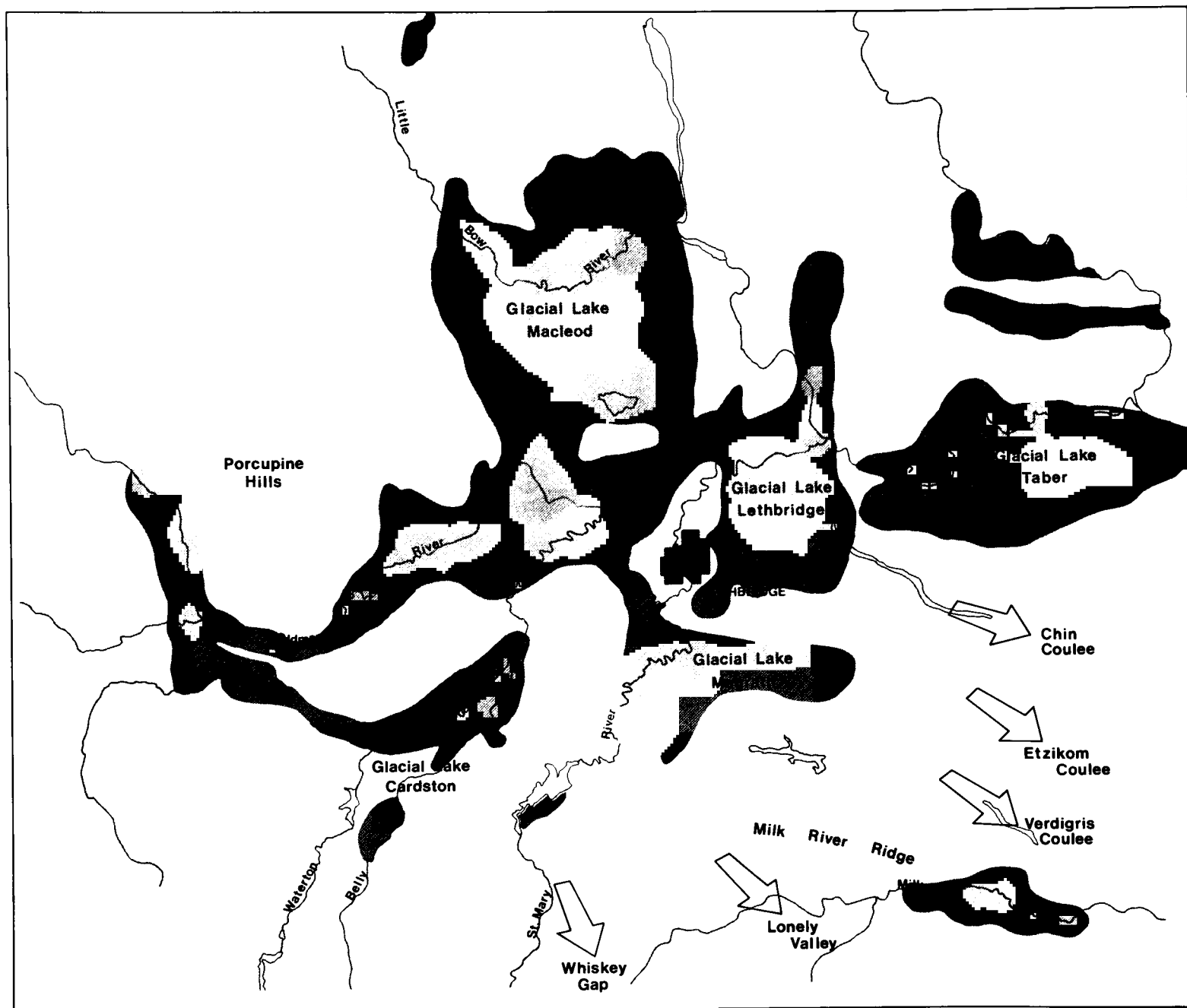
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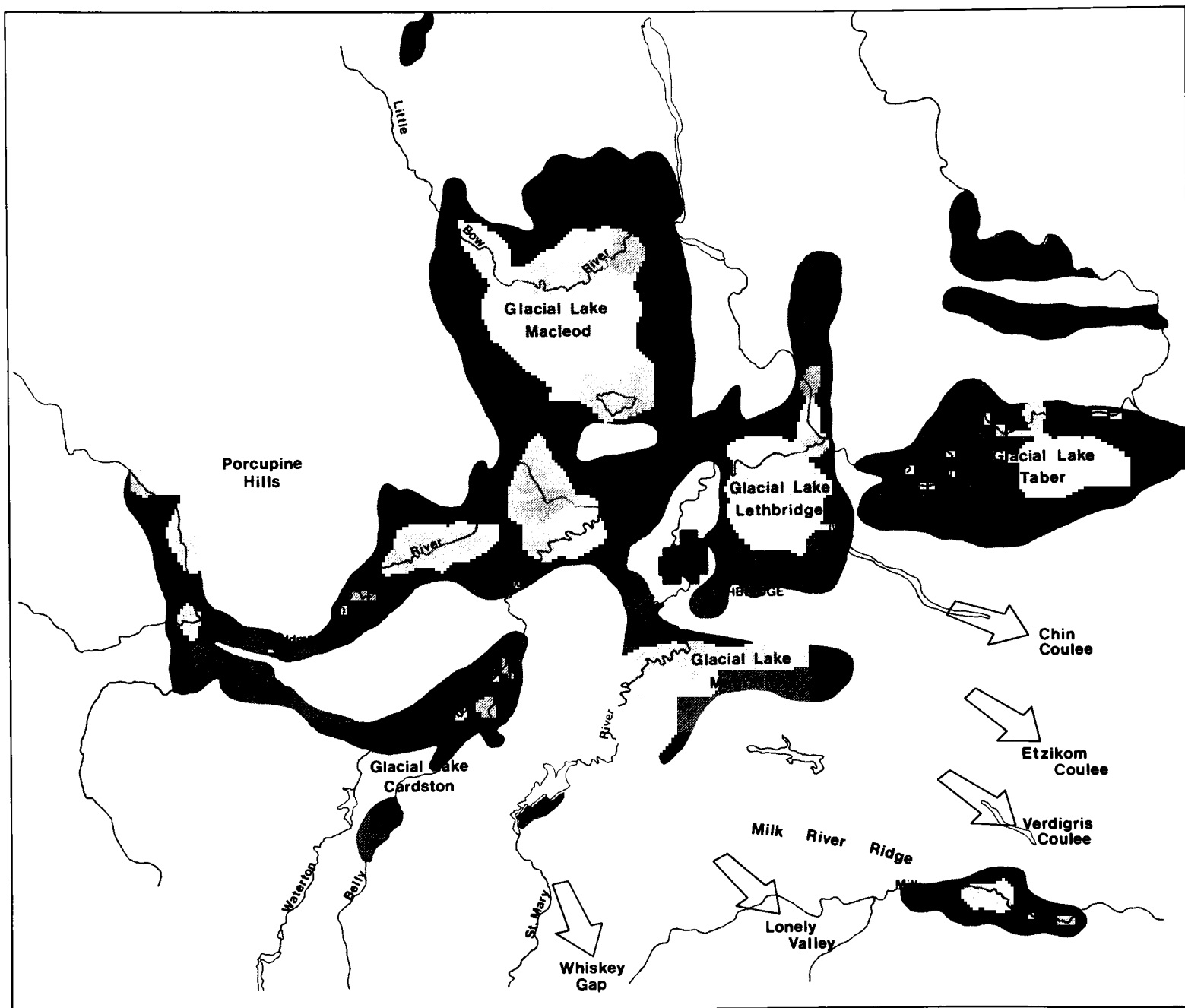
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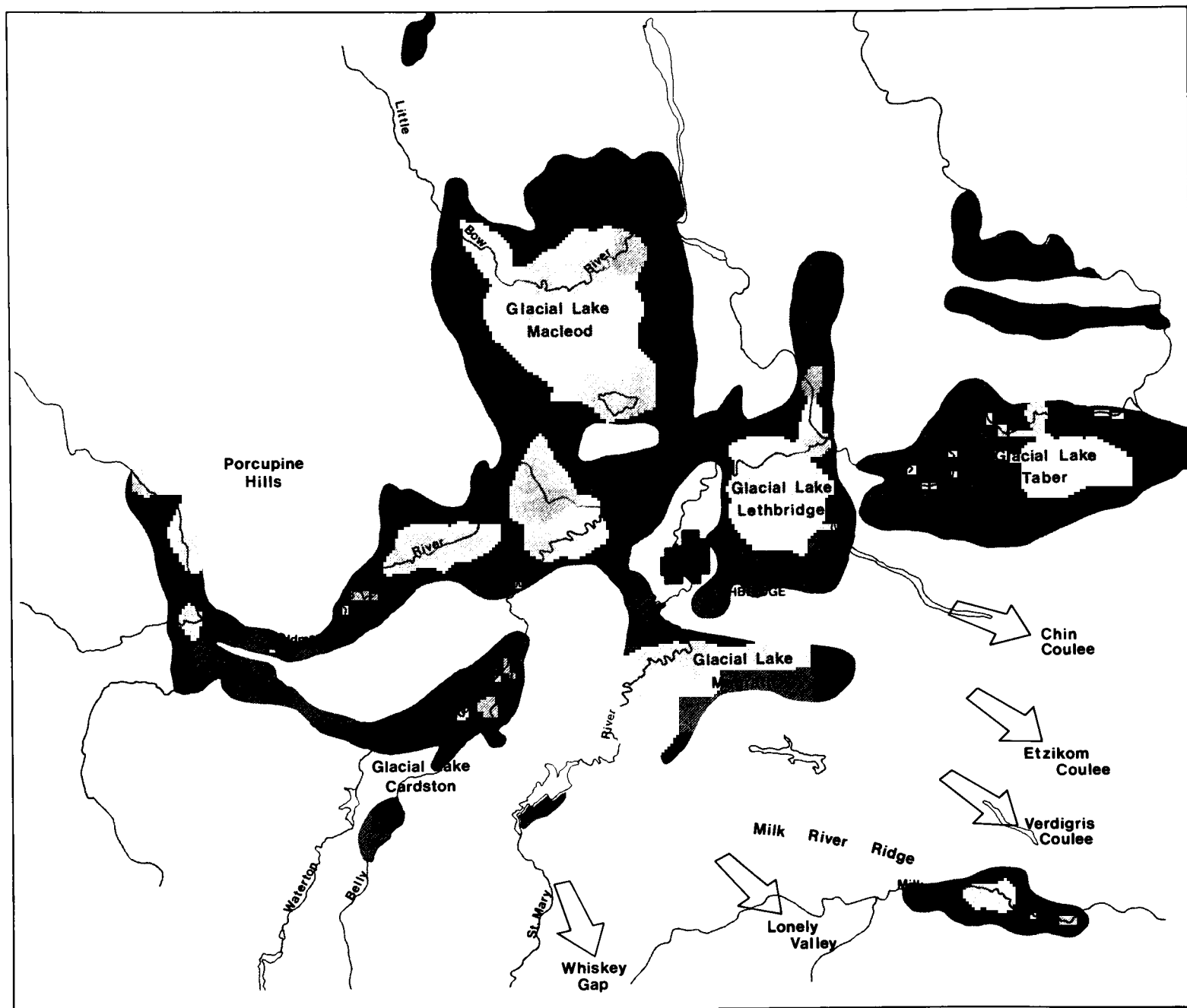
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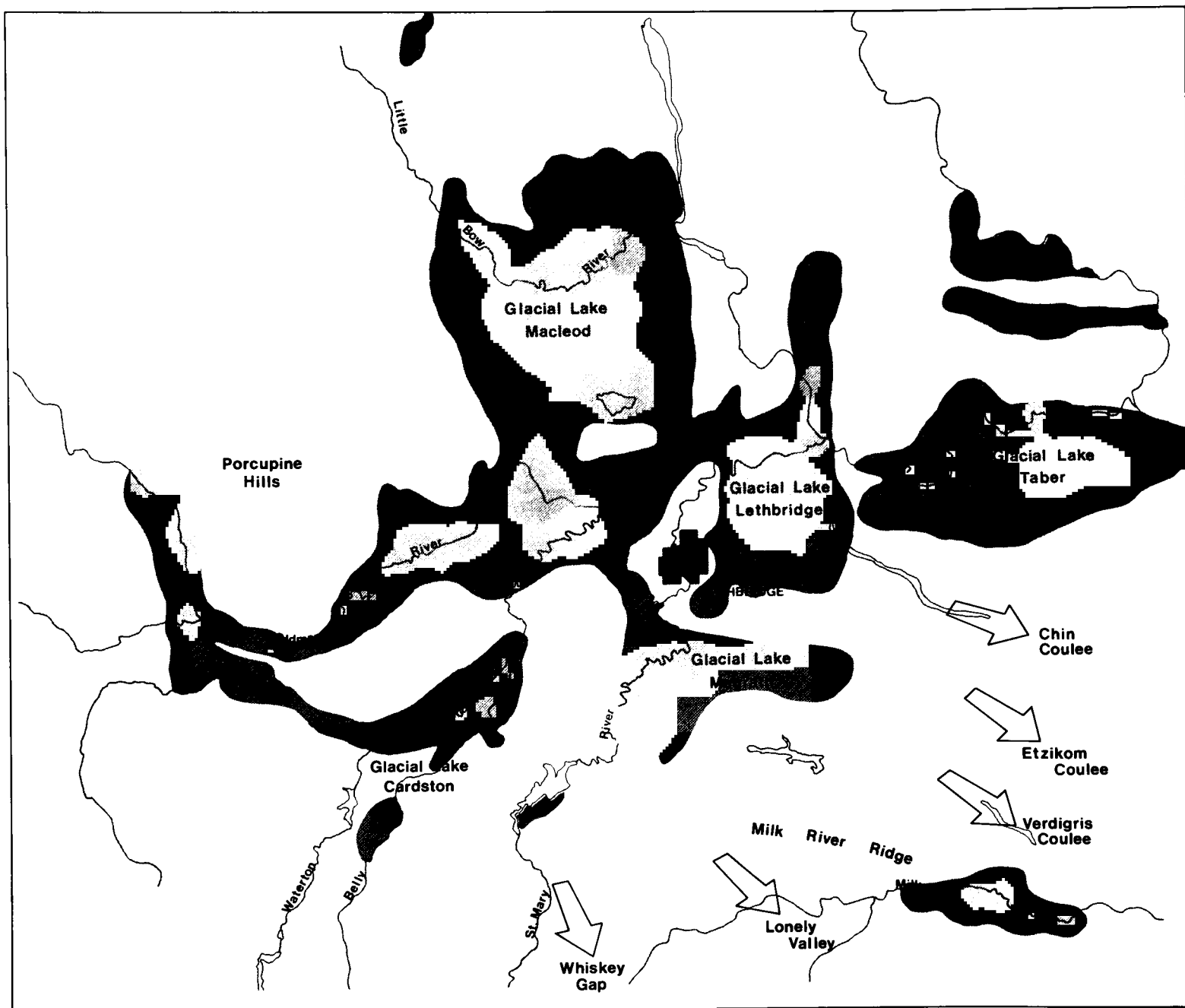
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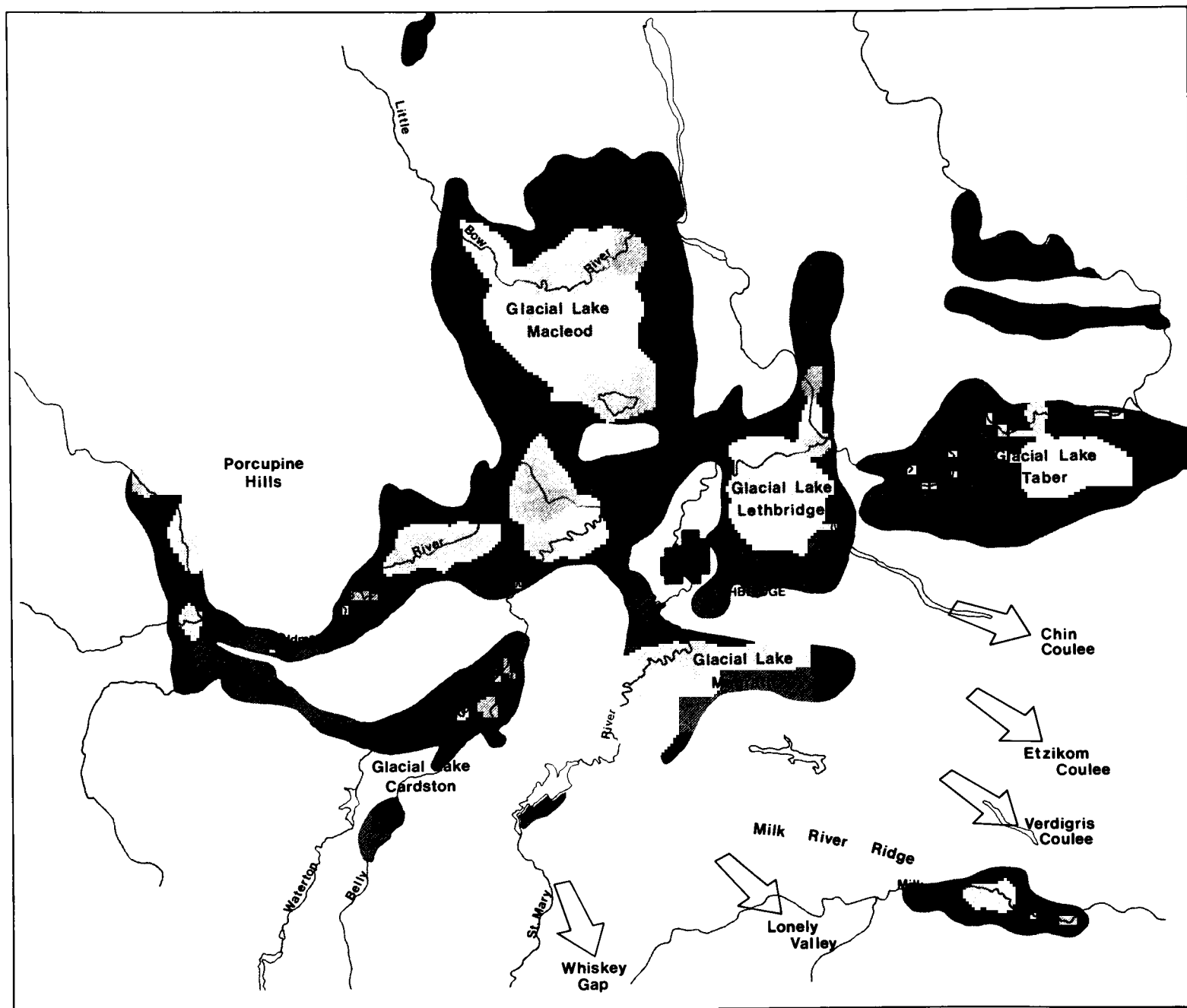
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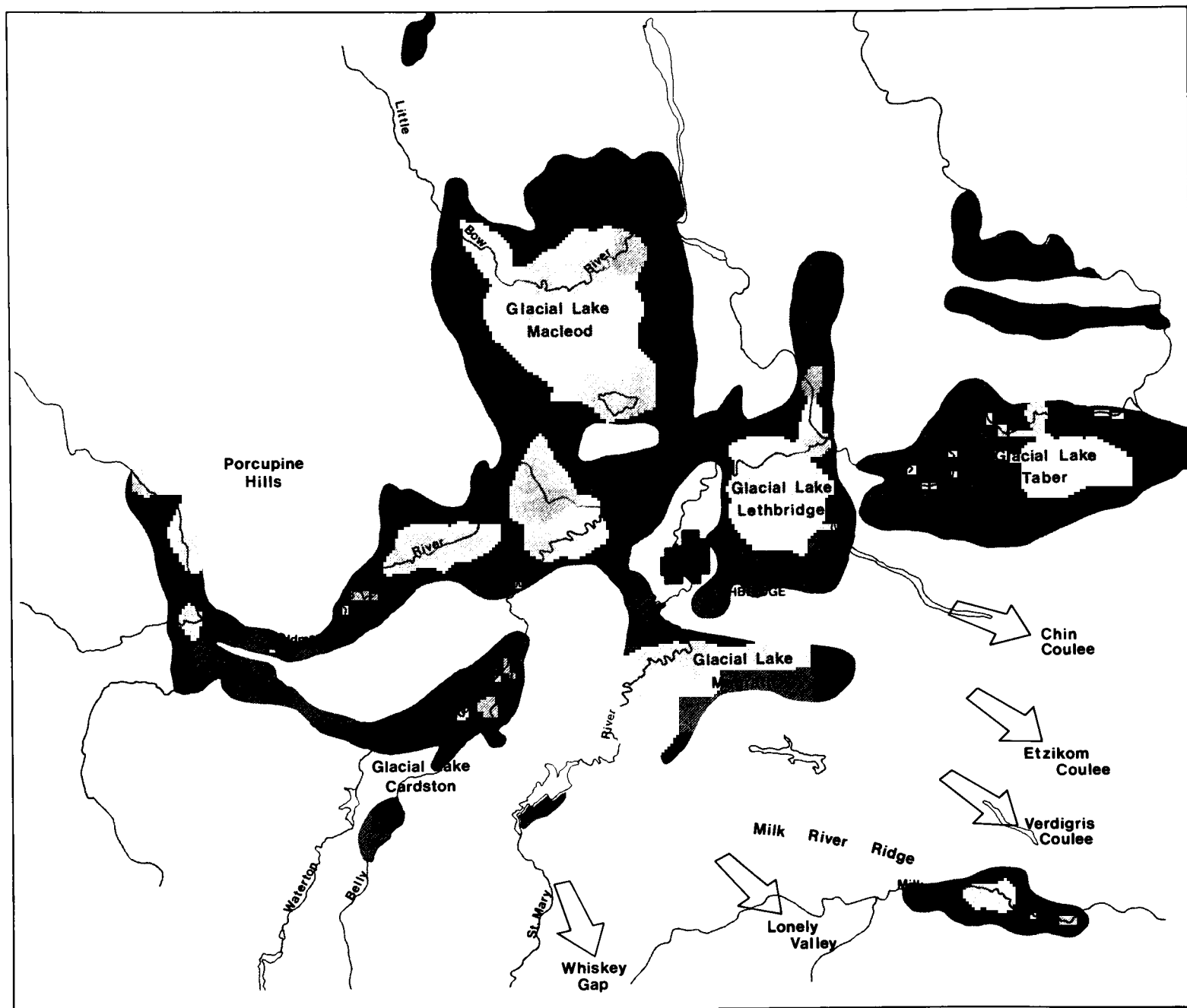
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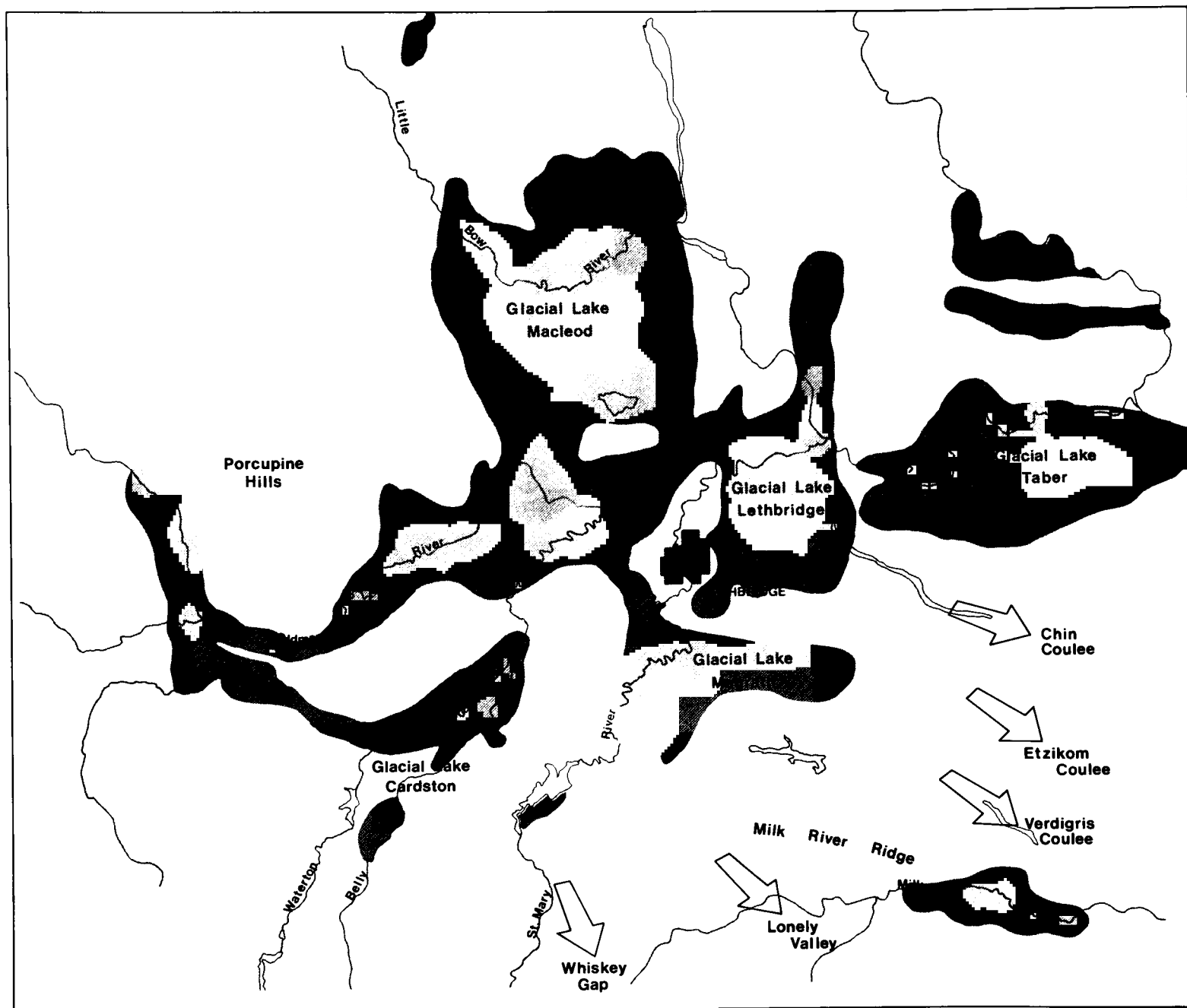
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Chapter One

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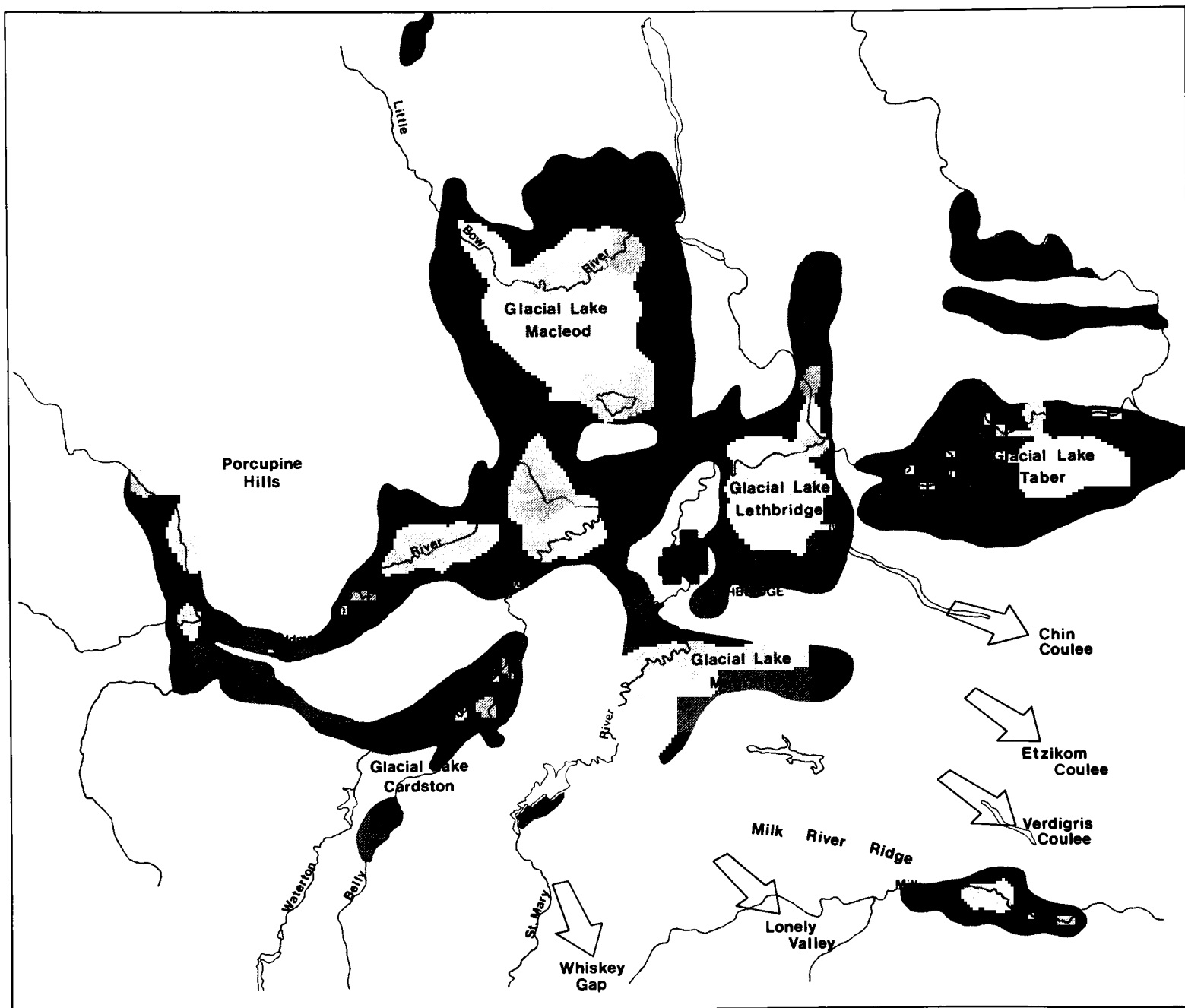
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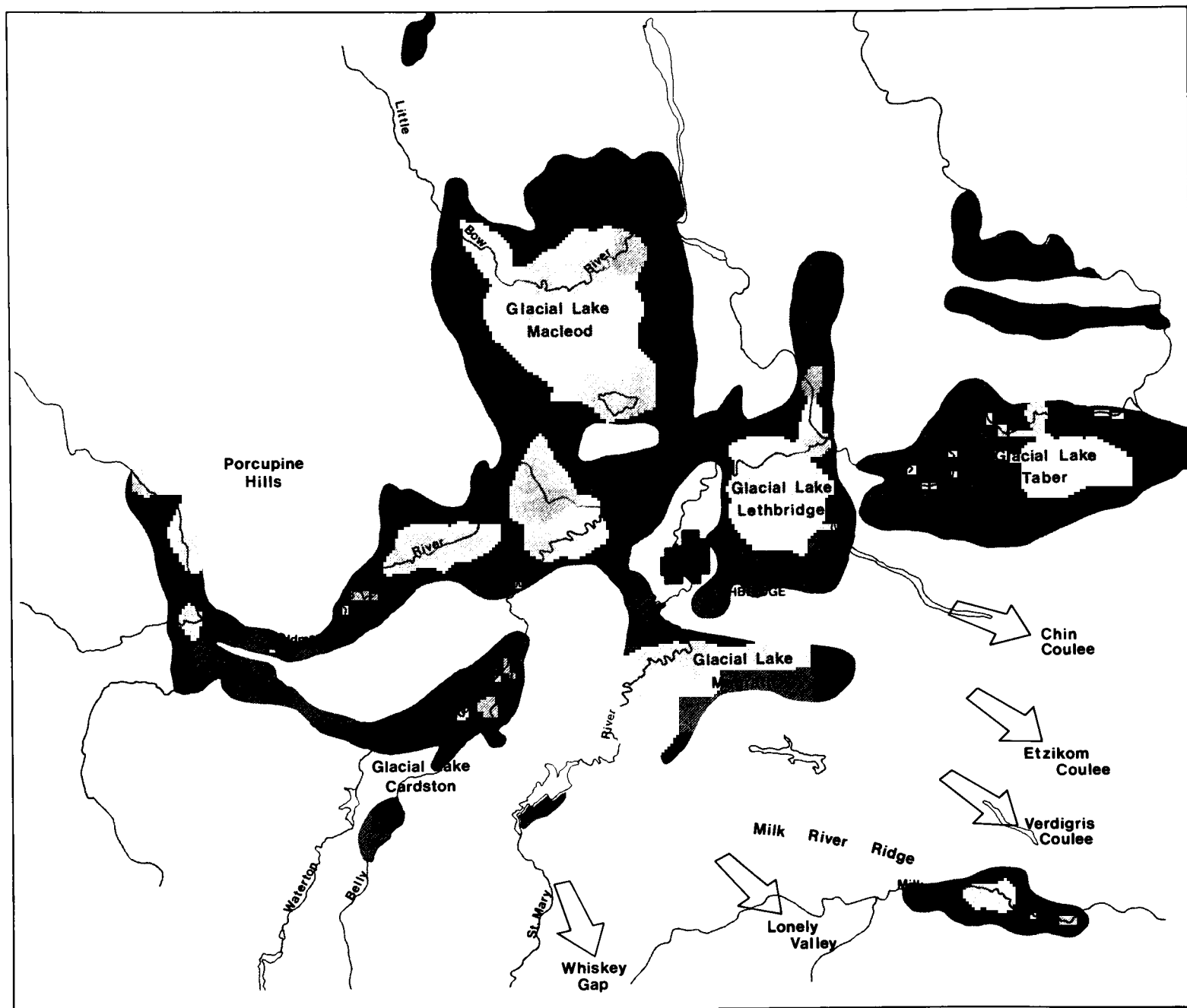
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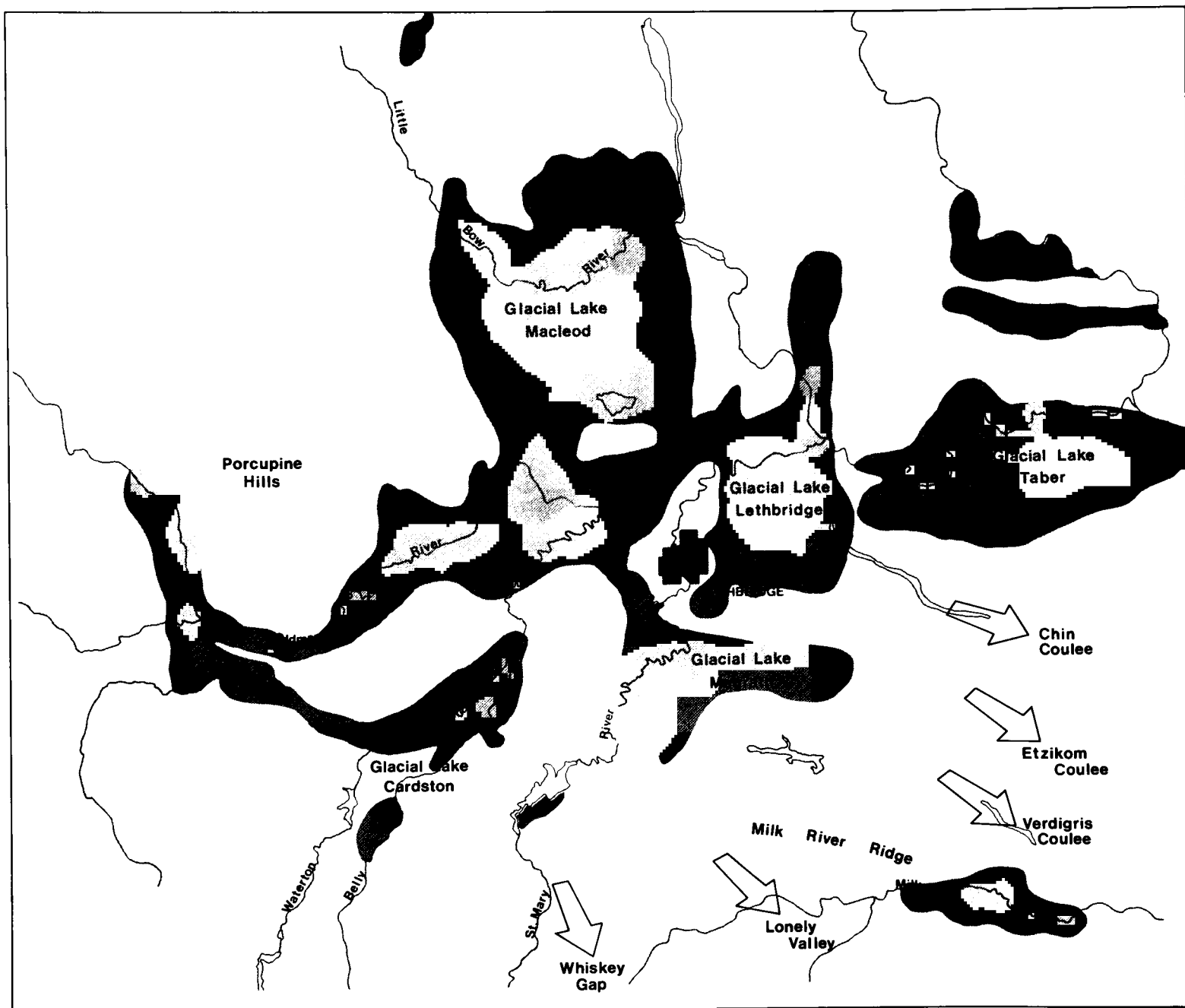
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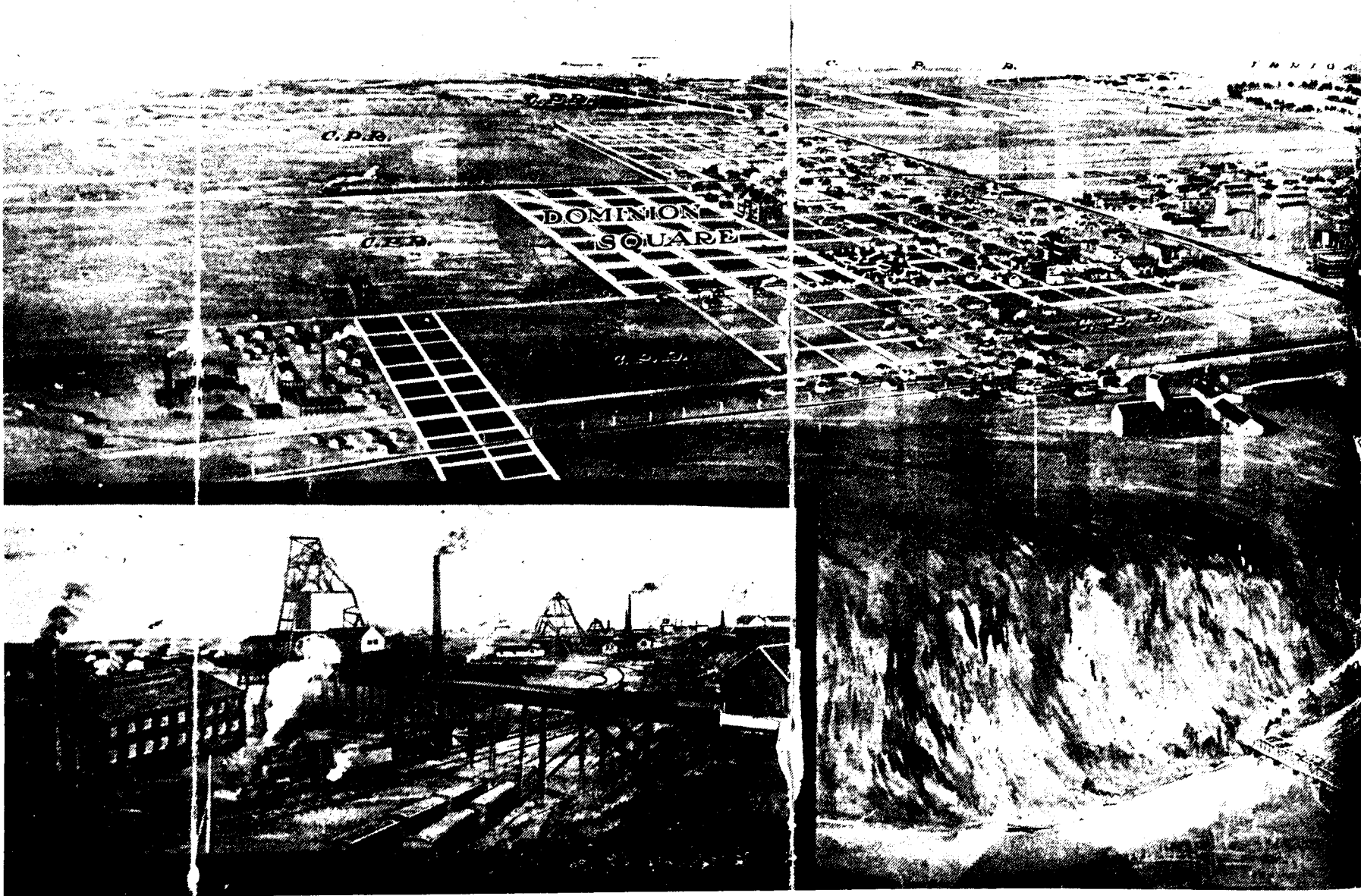
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A bird's-eye view of Lethbridge in 1912, from a real estate brochure.

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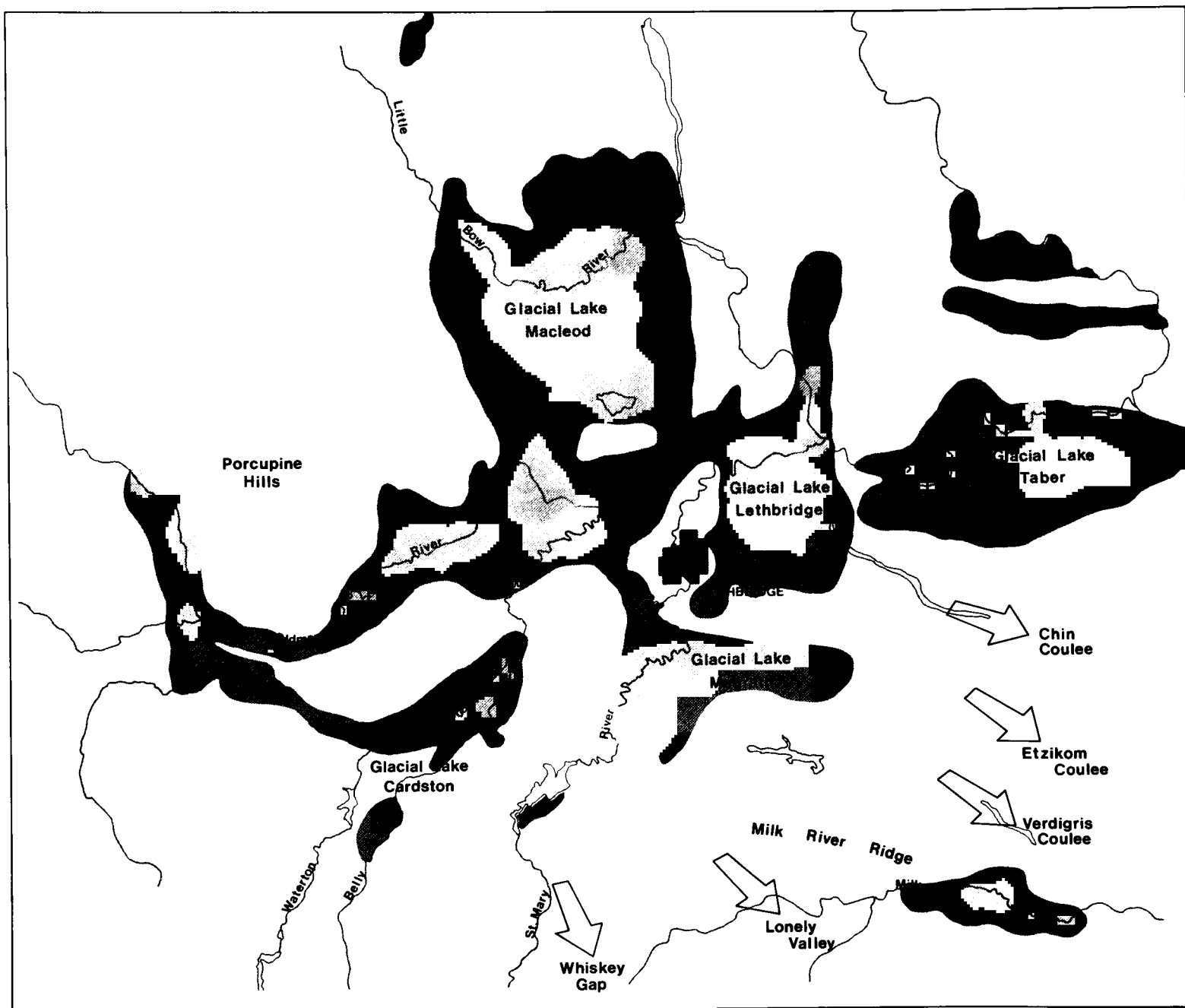
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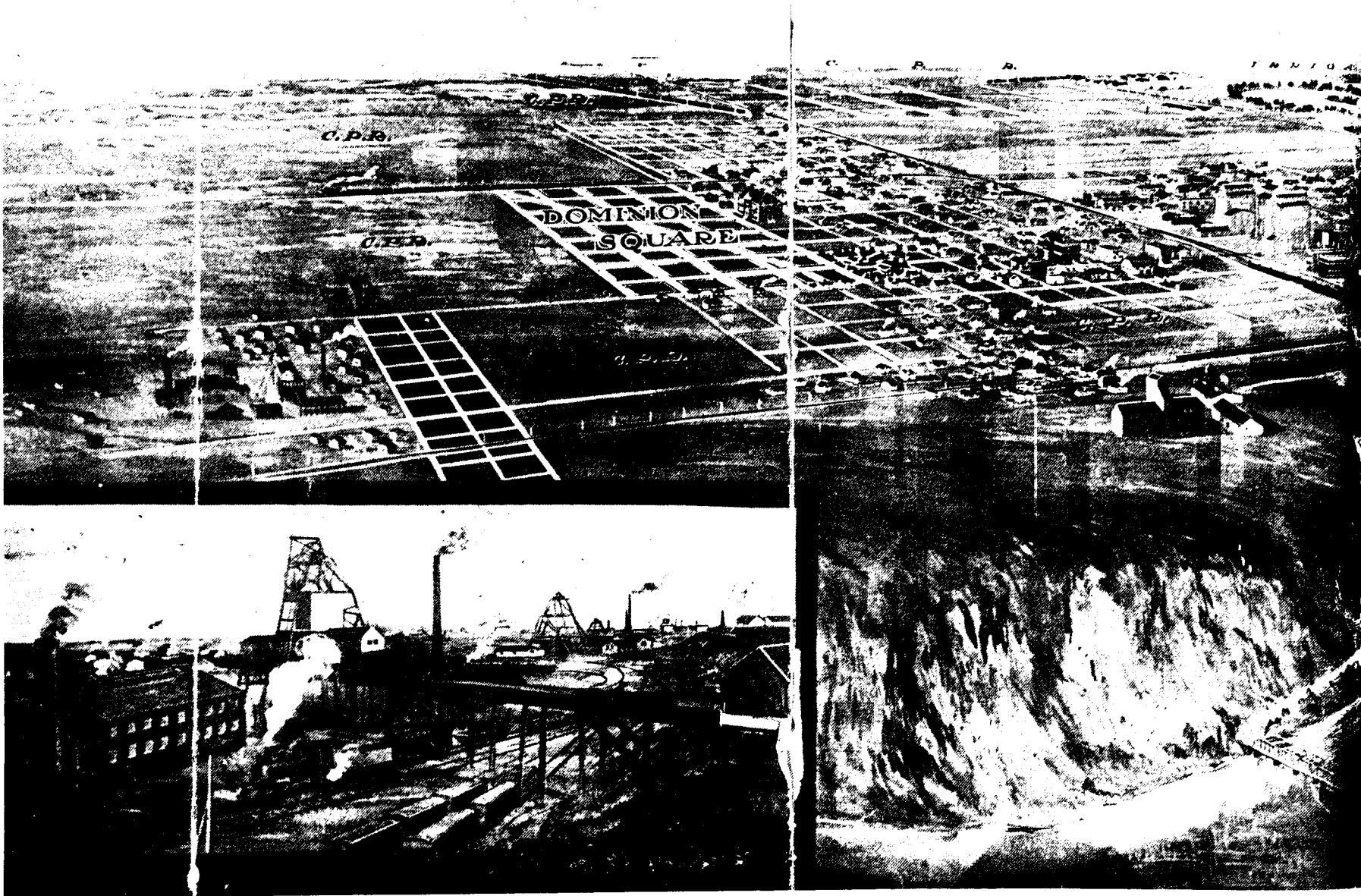
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A bird's-eye view of Lethbridge in 1912, from a real estate brochure.

Chapter One

Origins of Wealth

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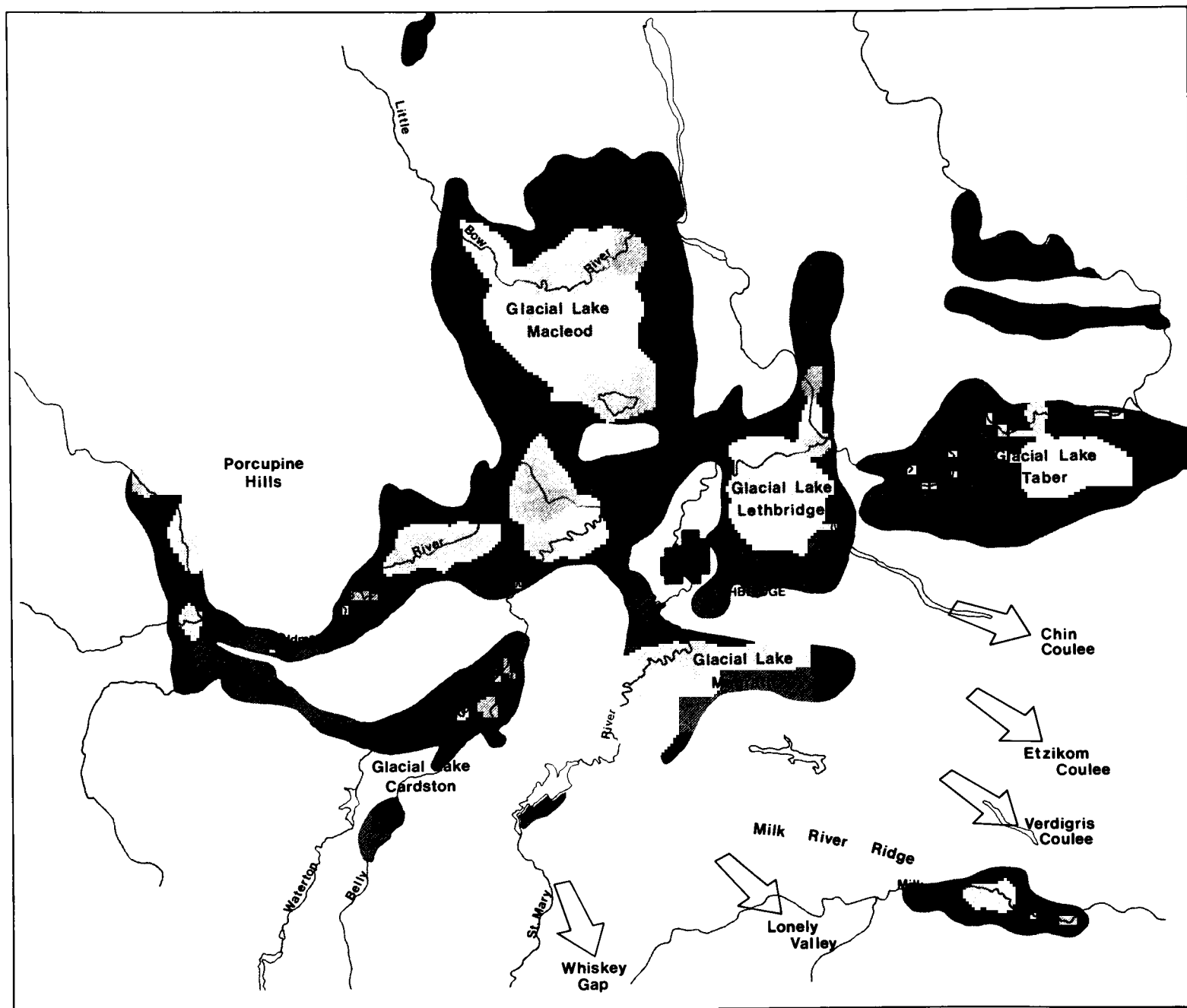
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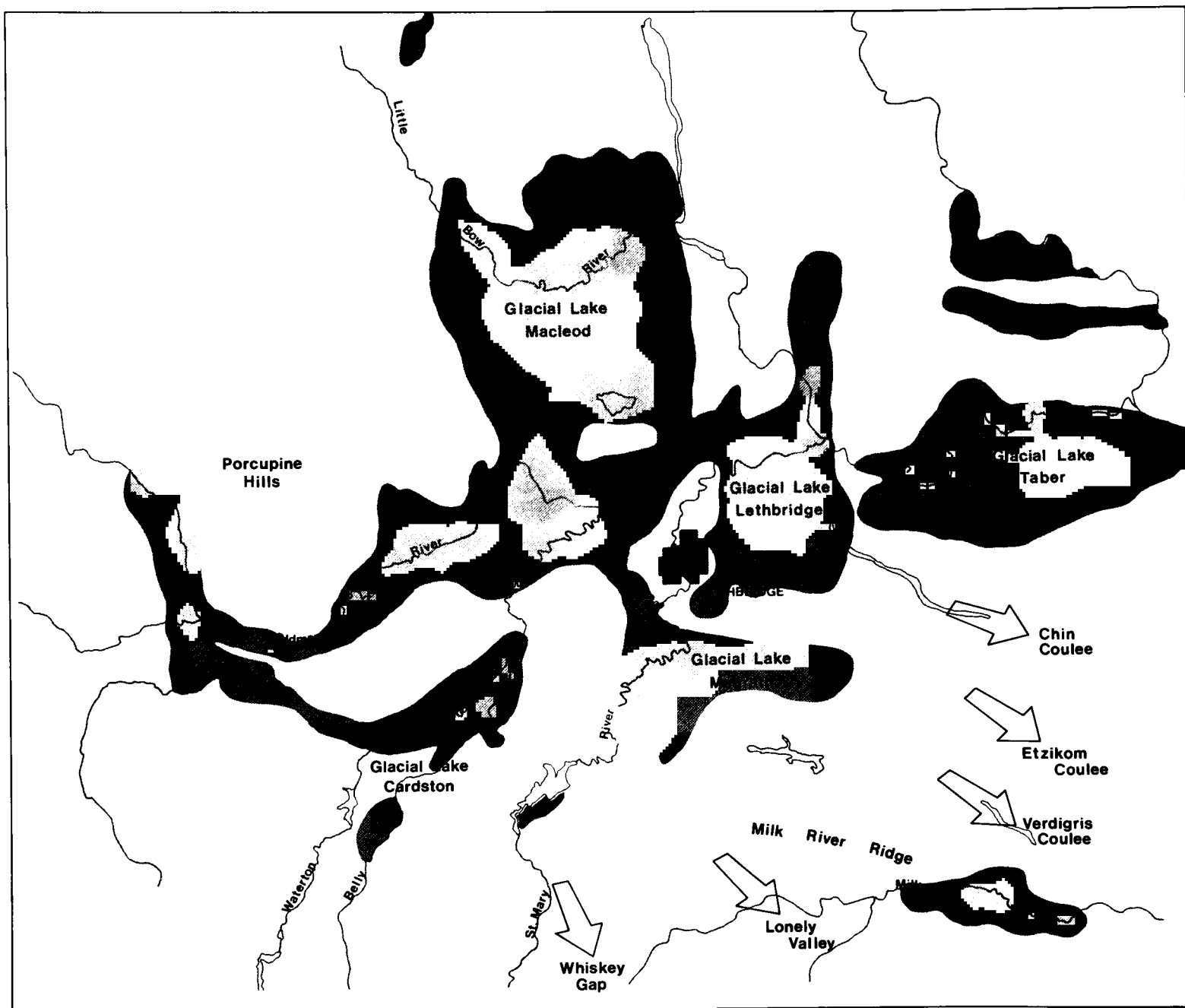
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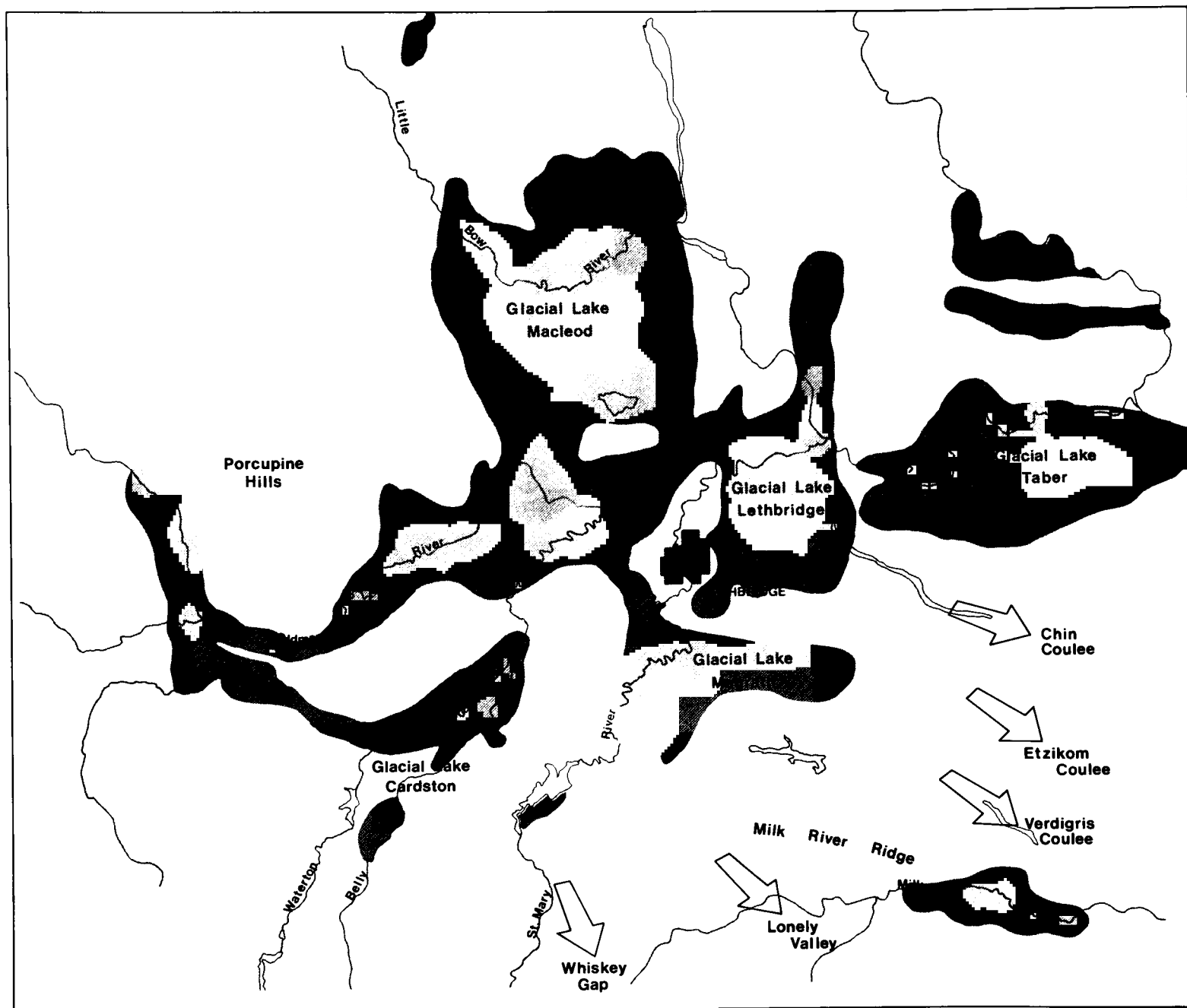
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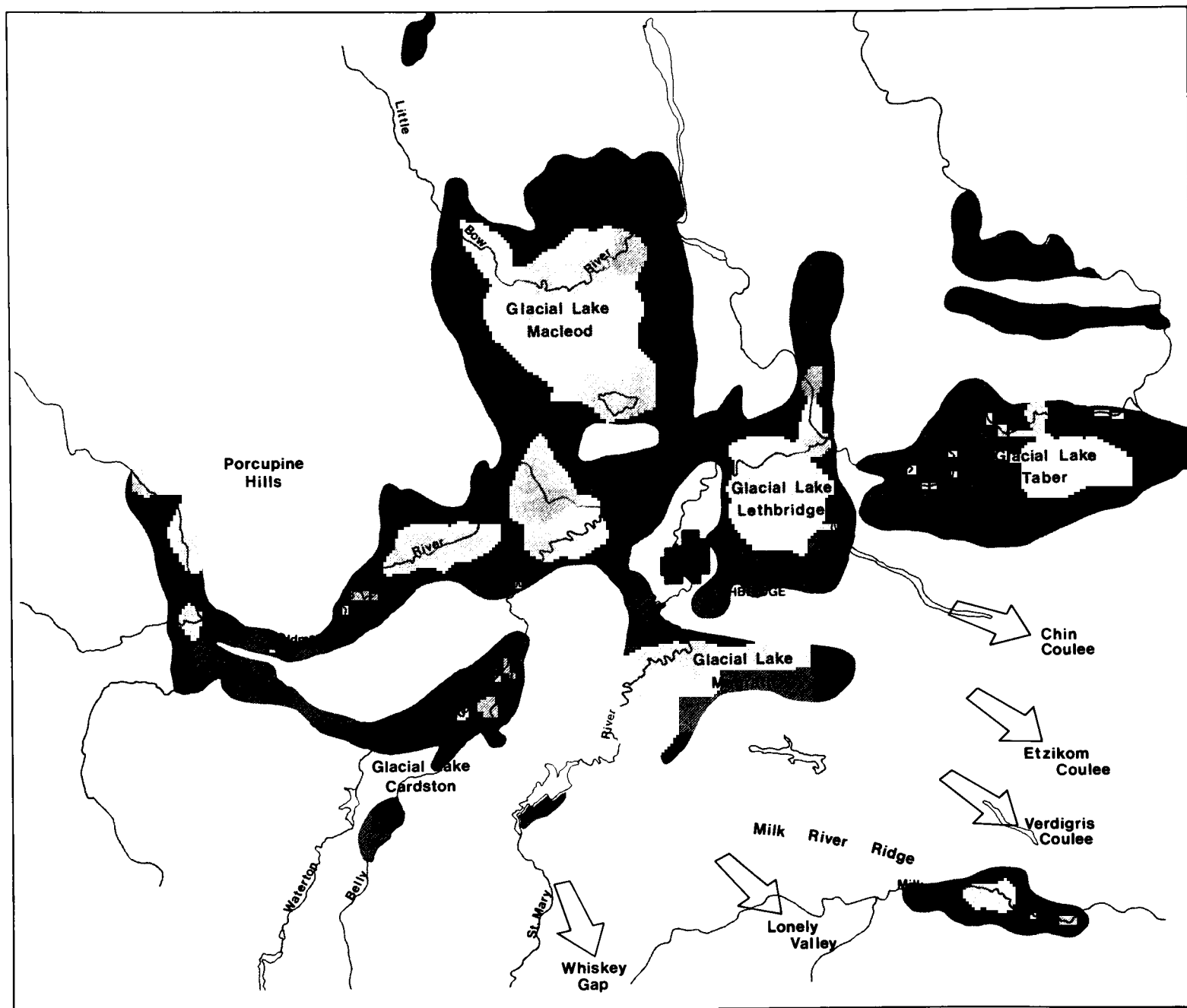
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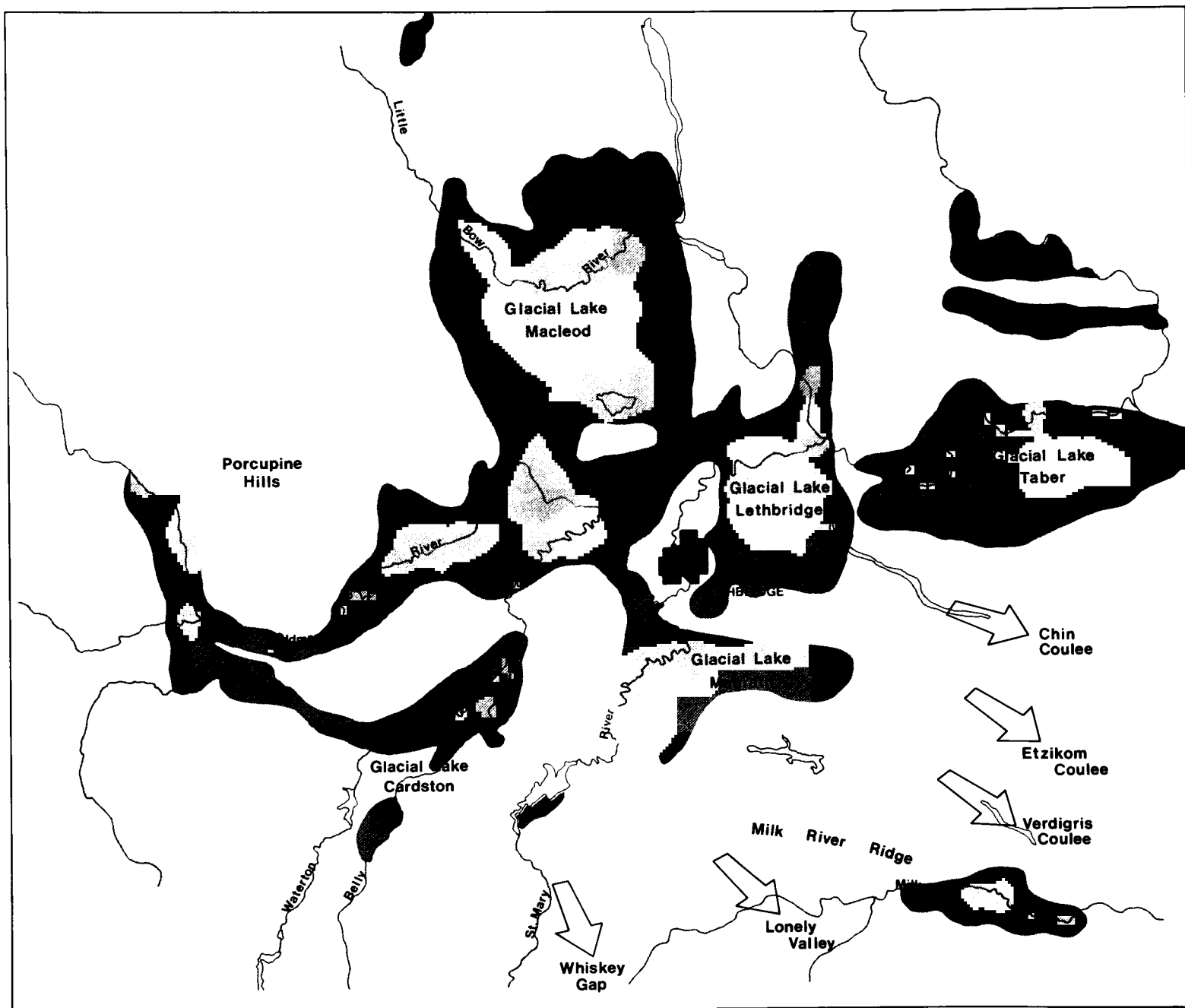
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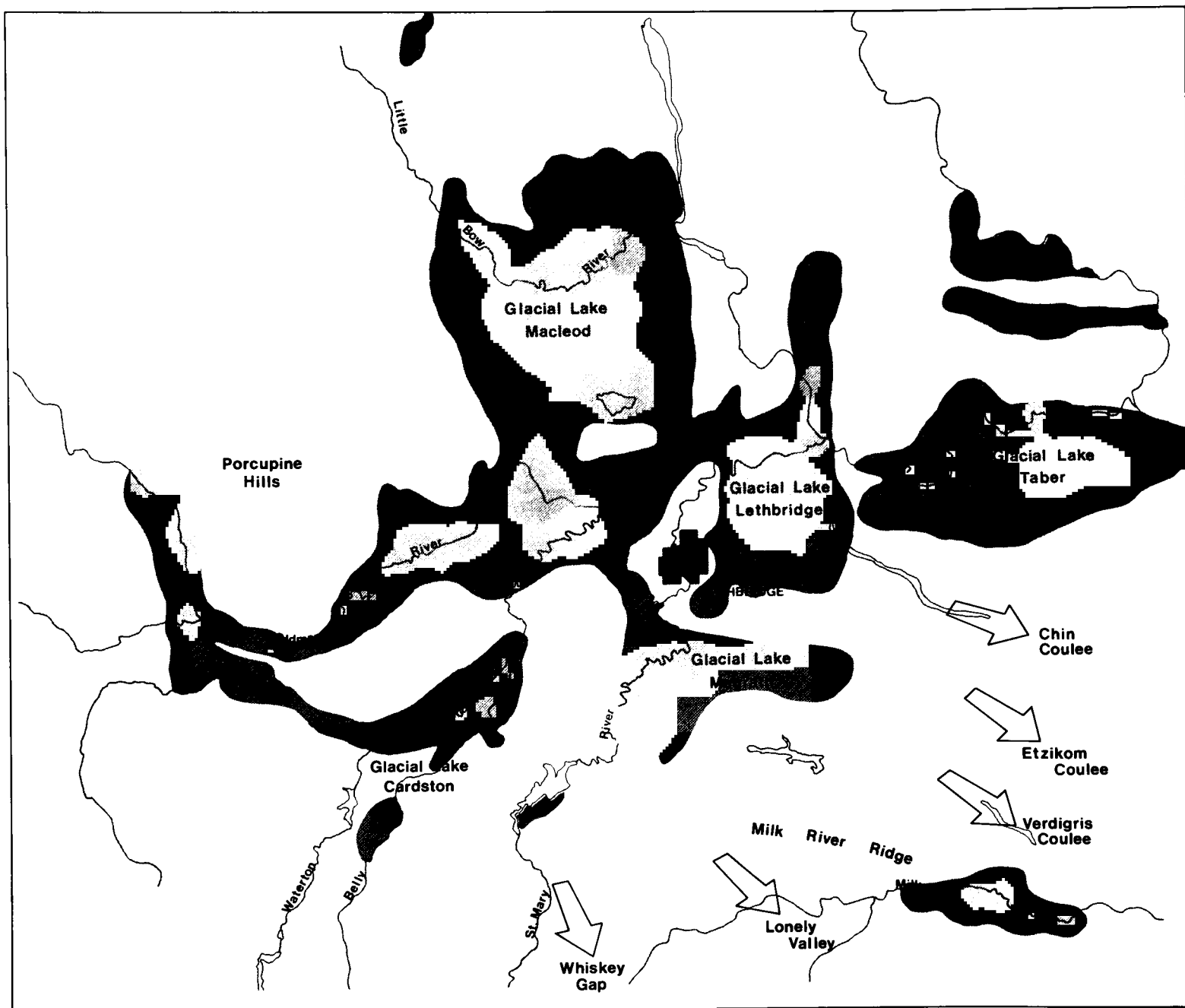
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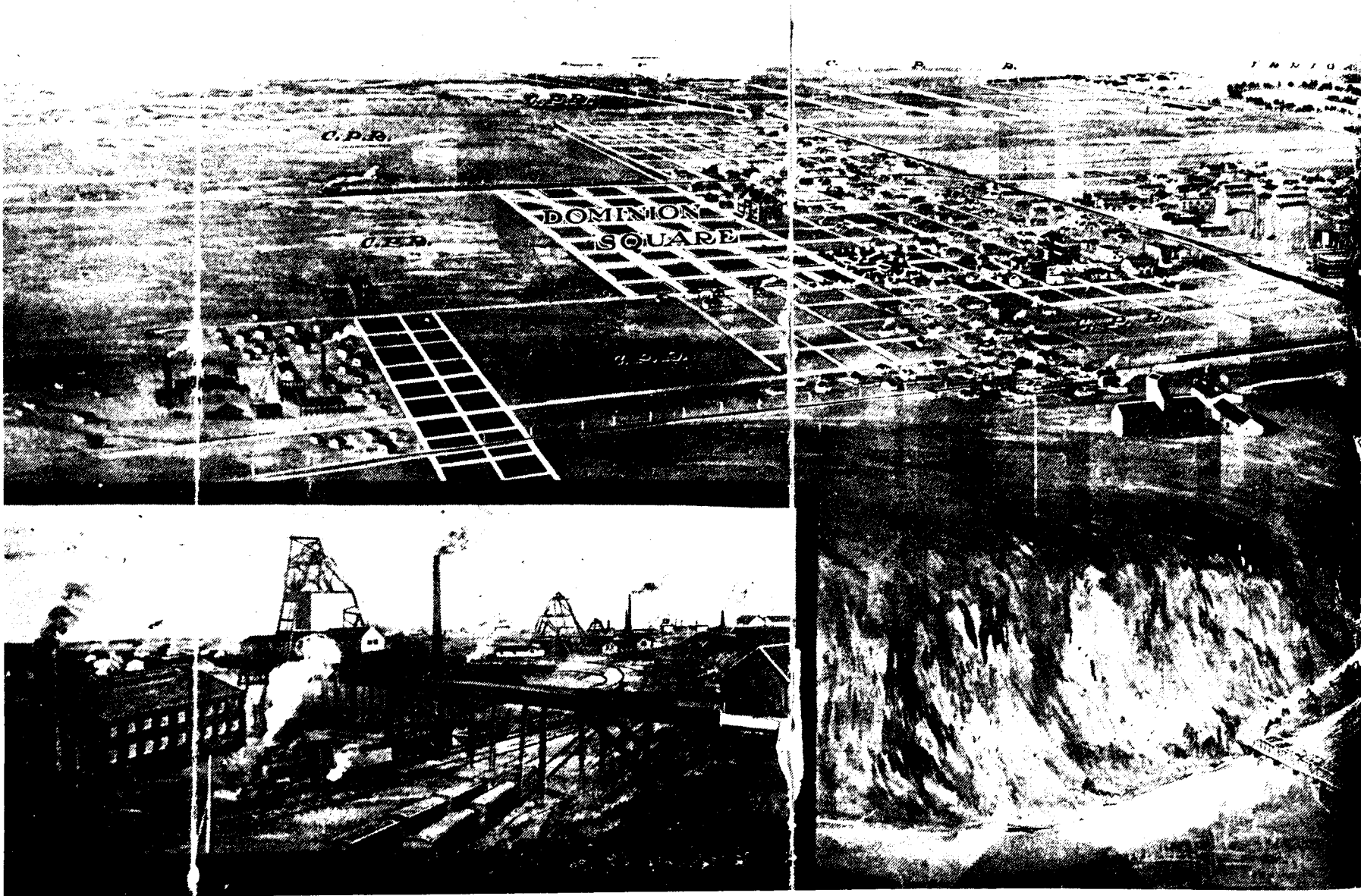
Official opening of Rotary Beach, Henderson Lake Park, 16 June 1926.





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A bird's-eye view of Lethbridge in 1912, from a real estate brochure.





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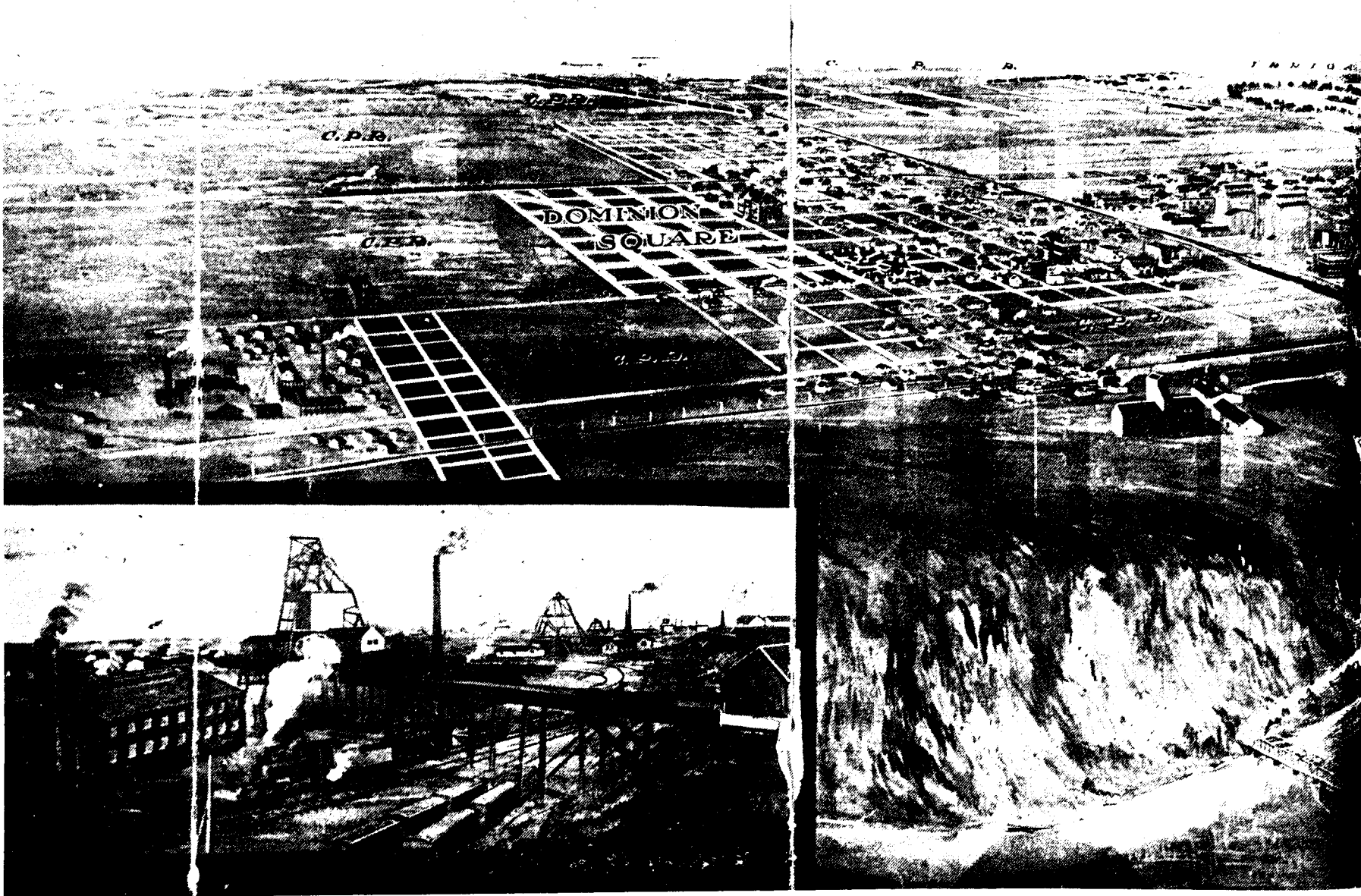
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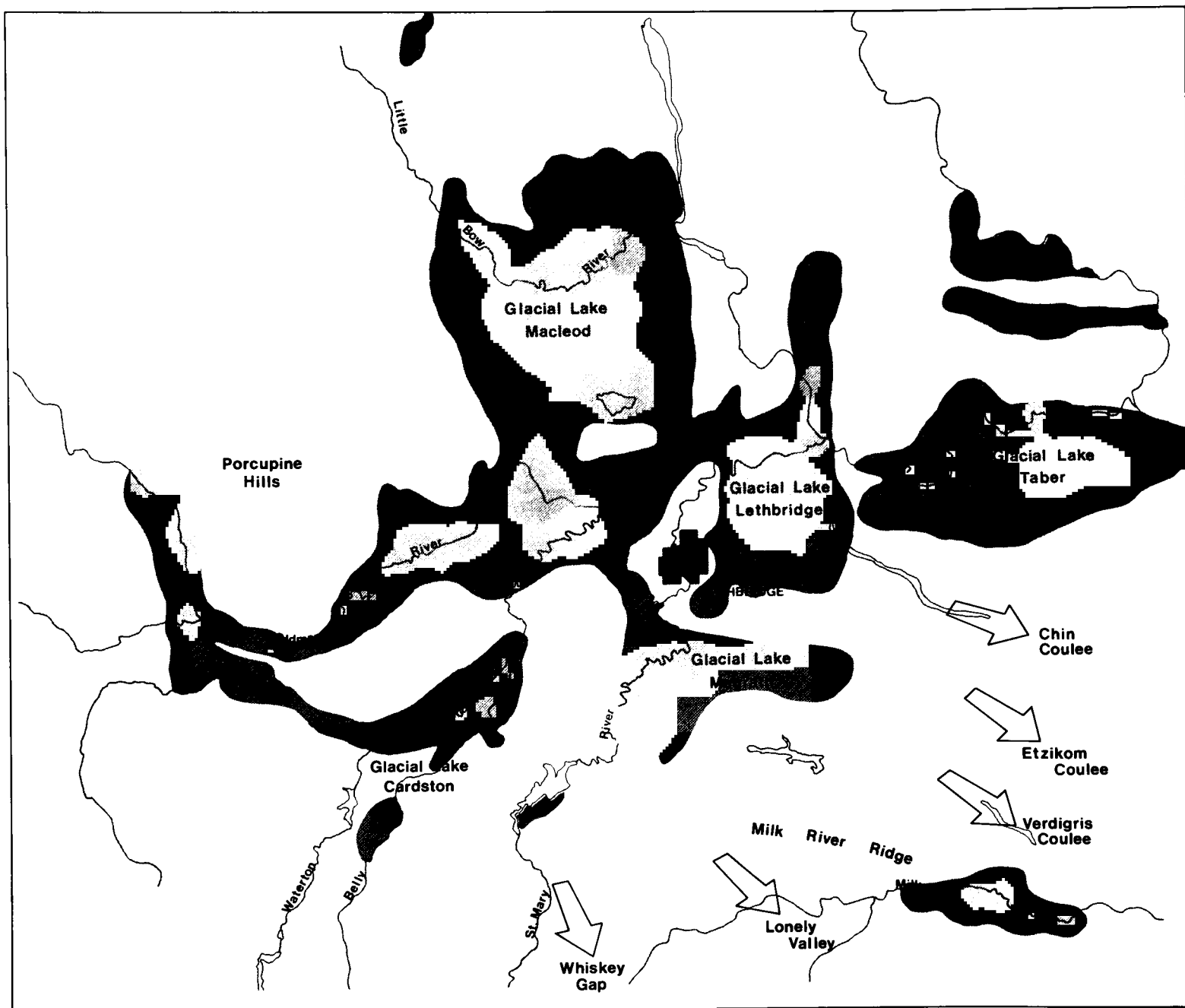
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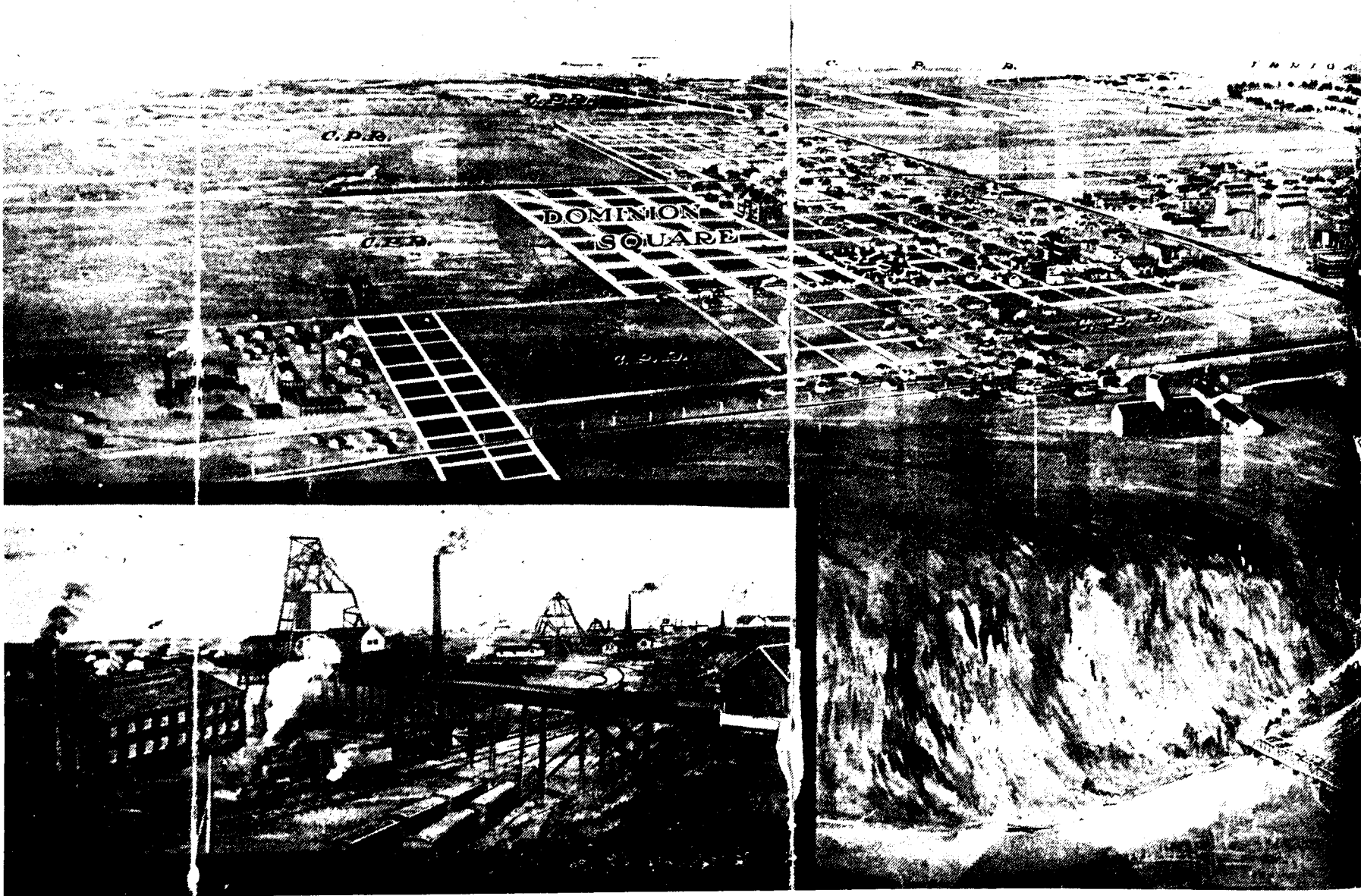
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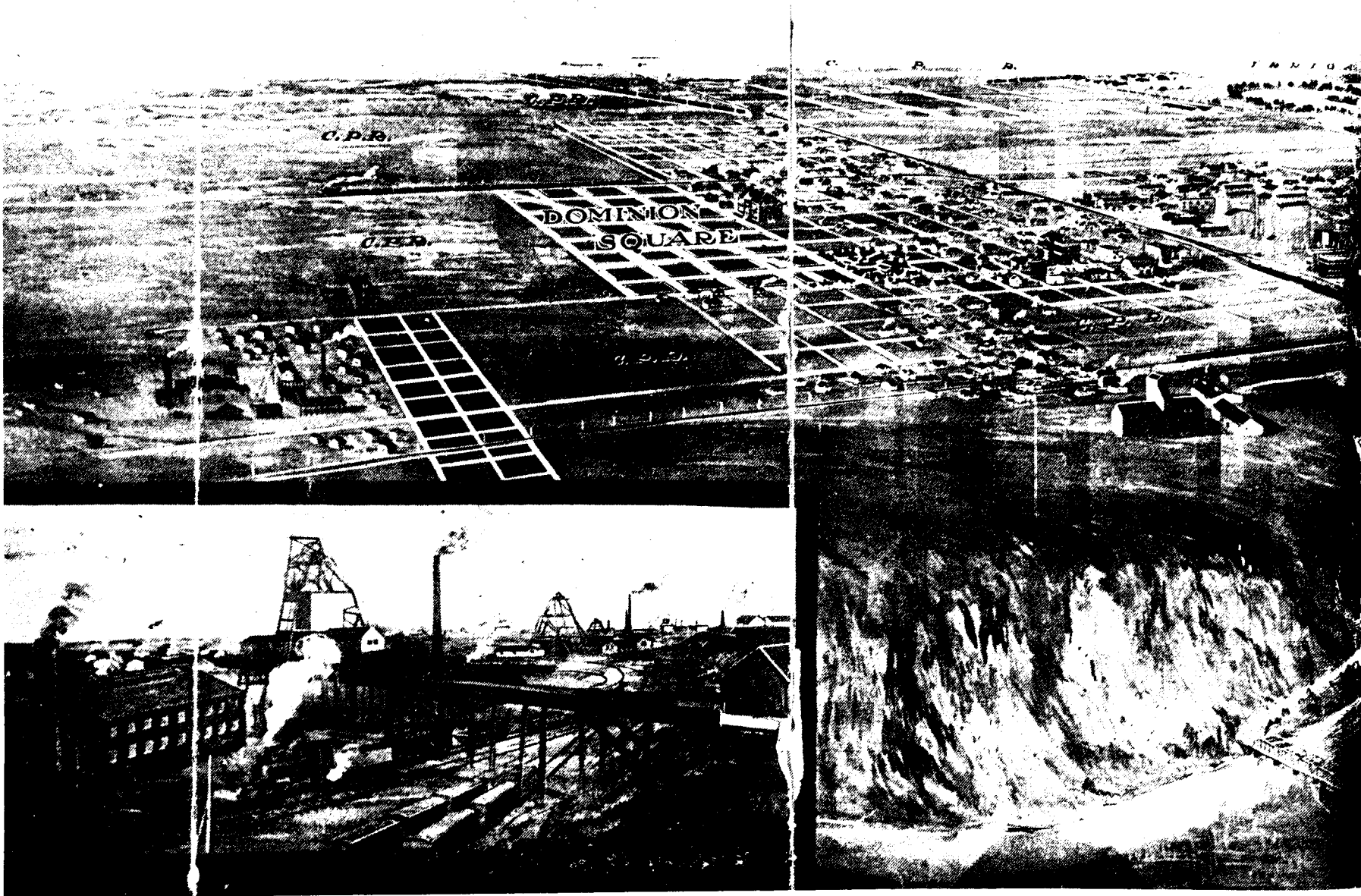
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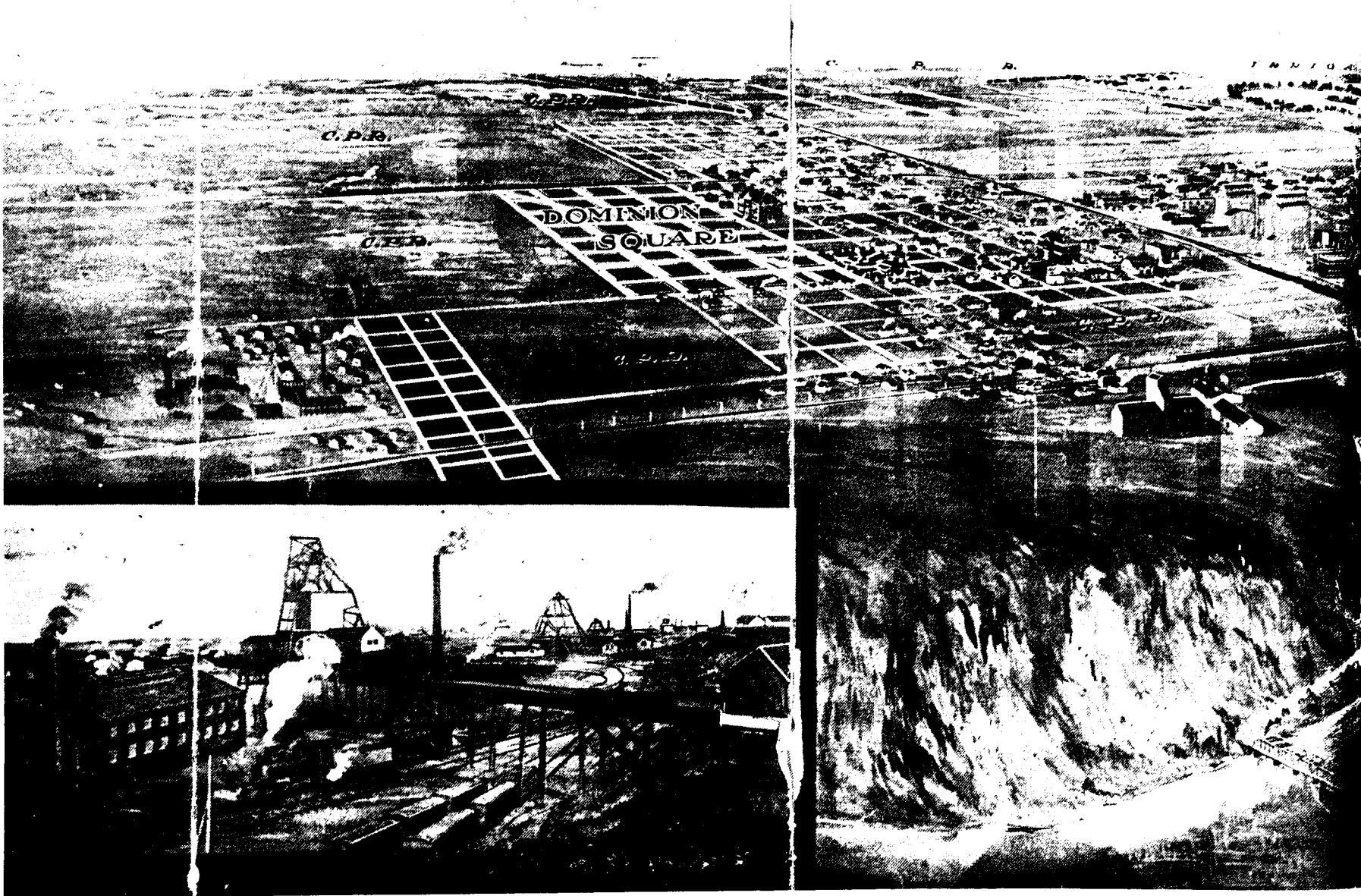
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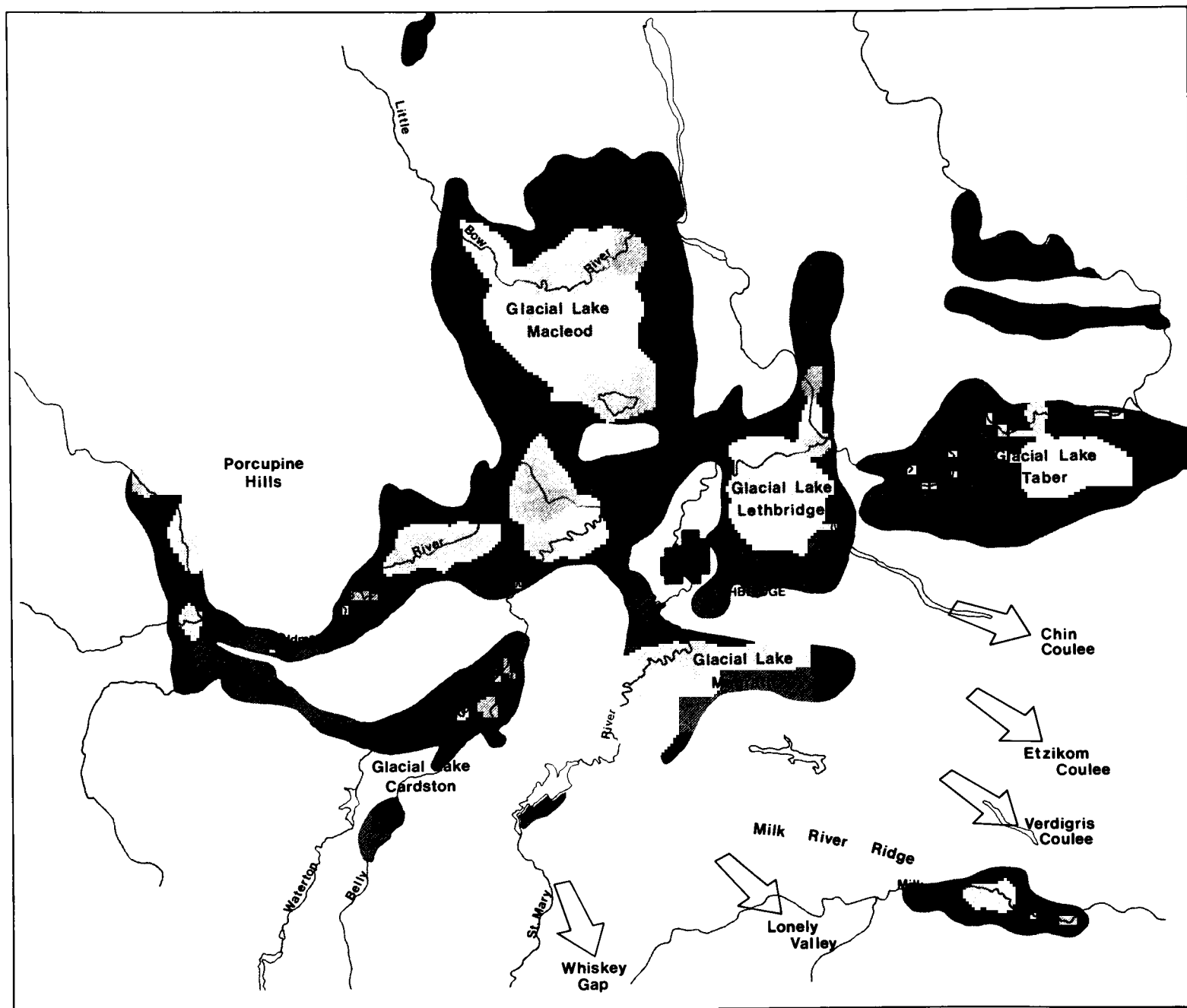
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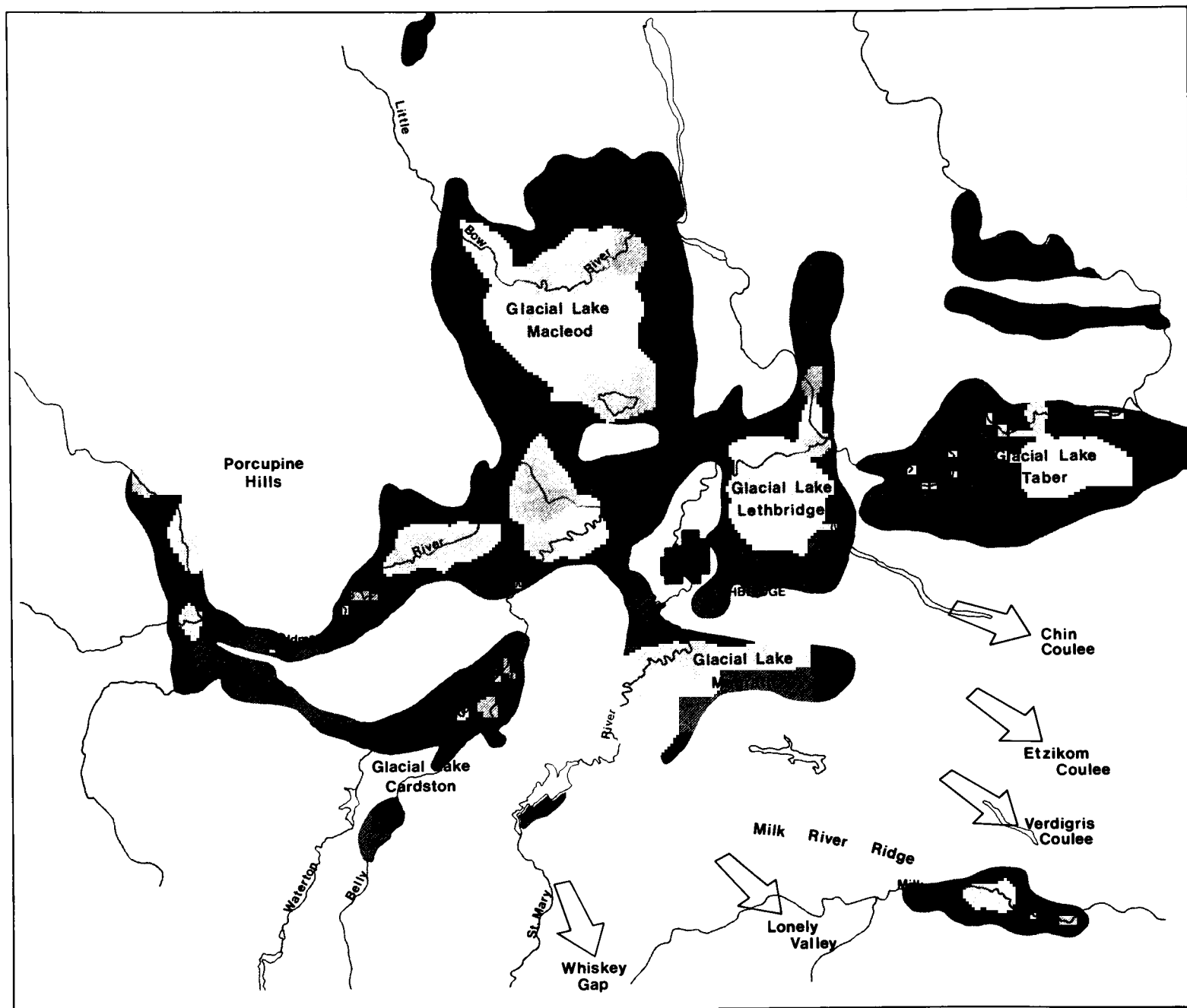
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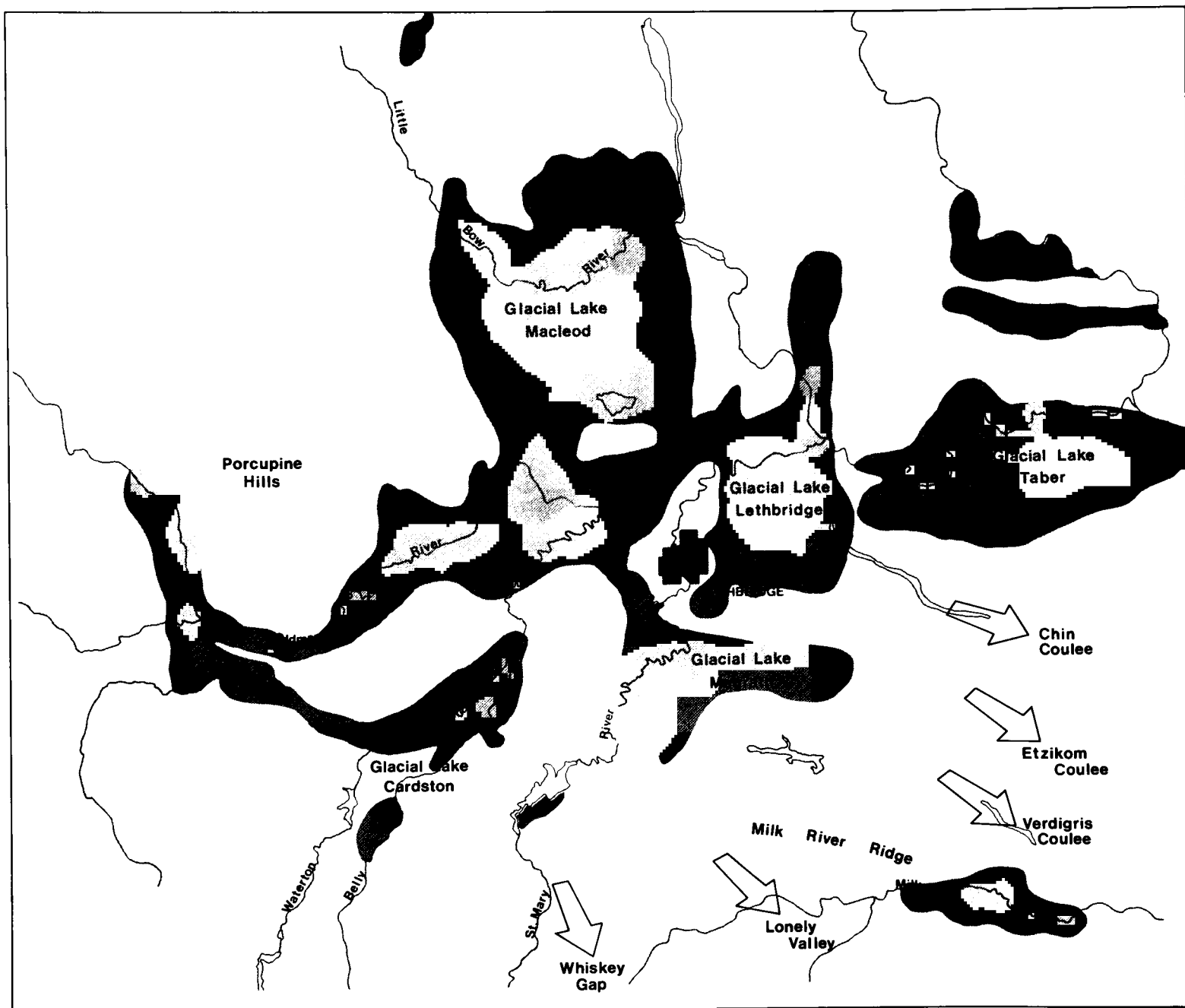
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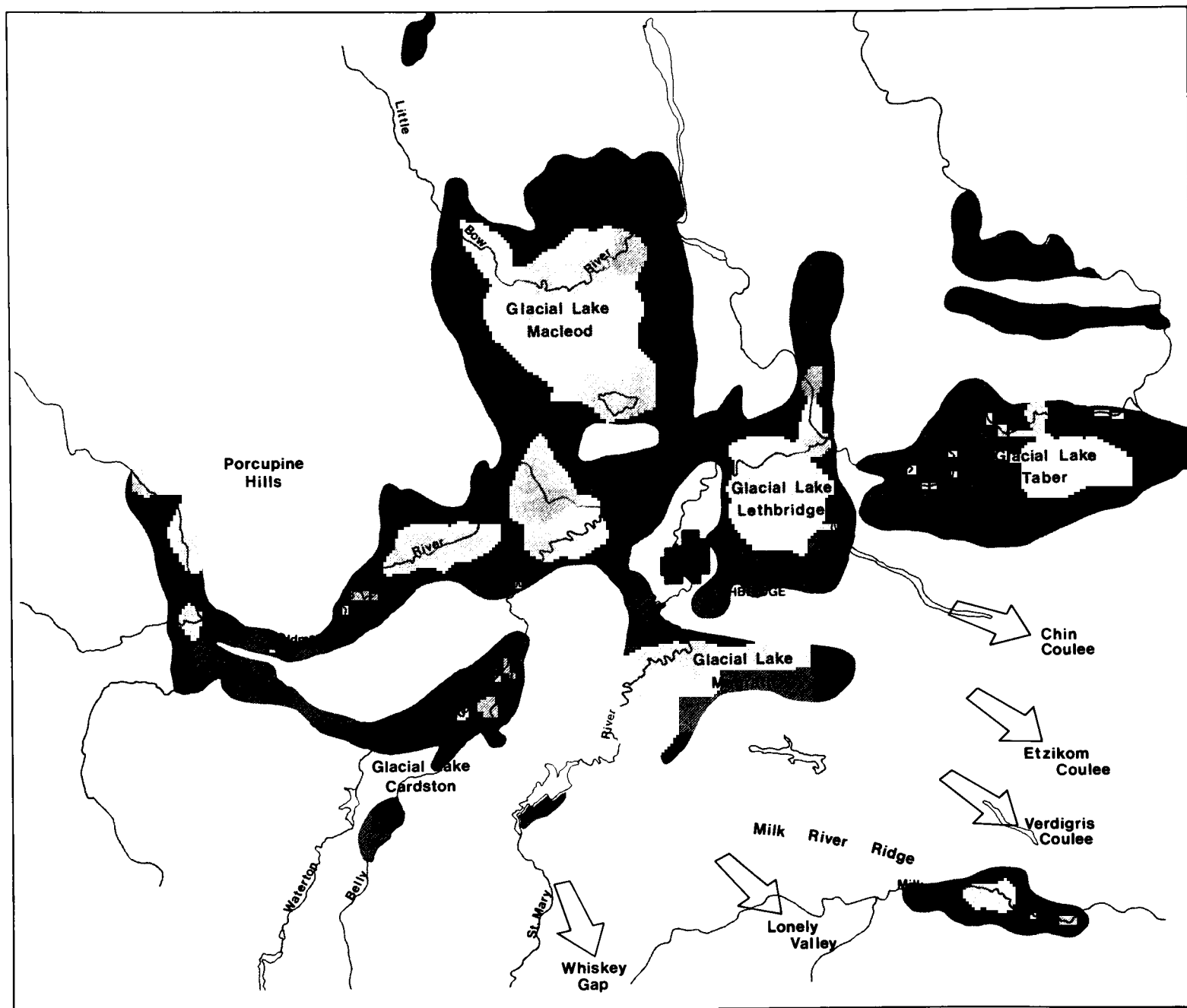
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Chapter One

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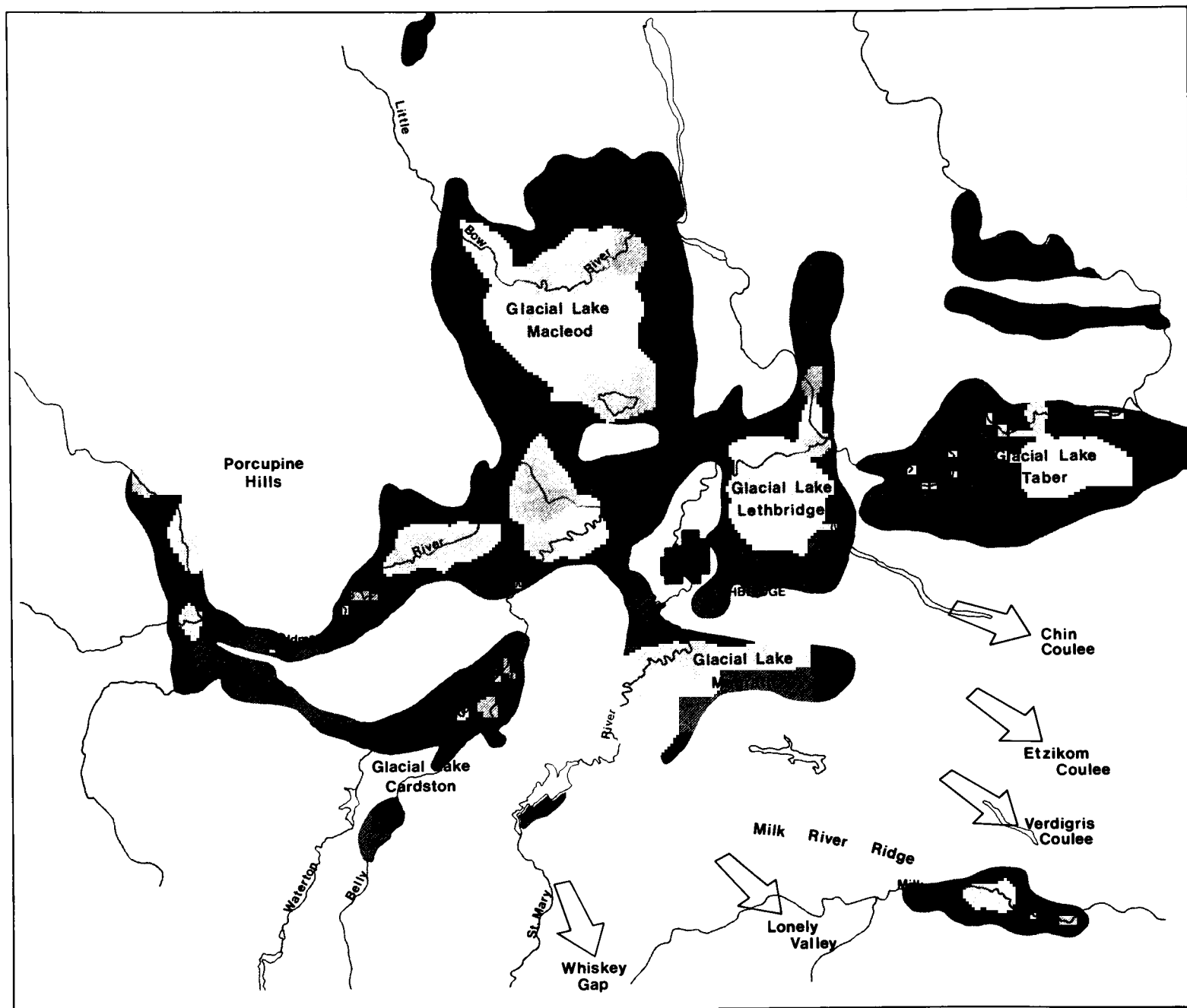
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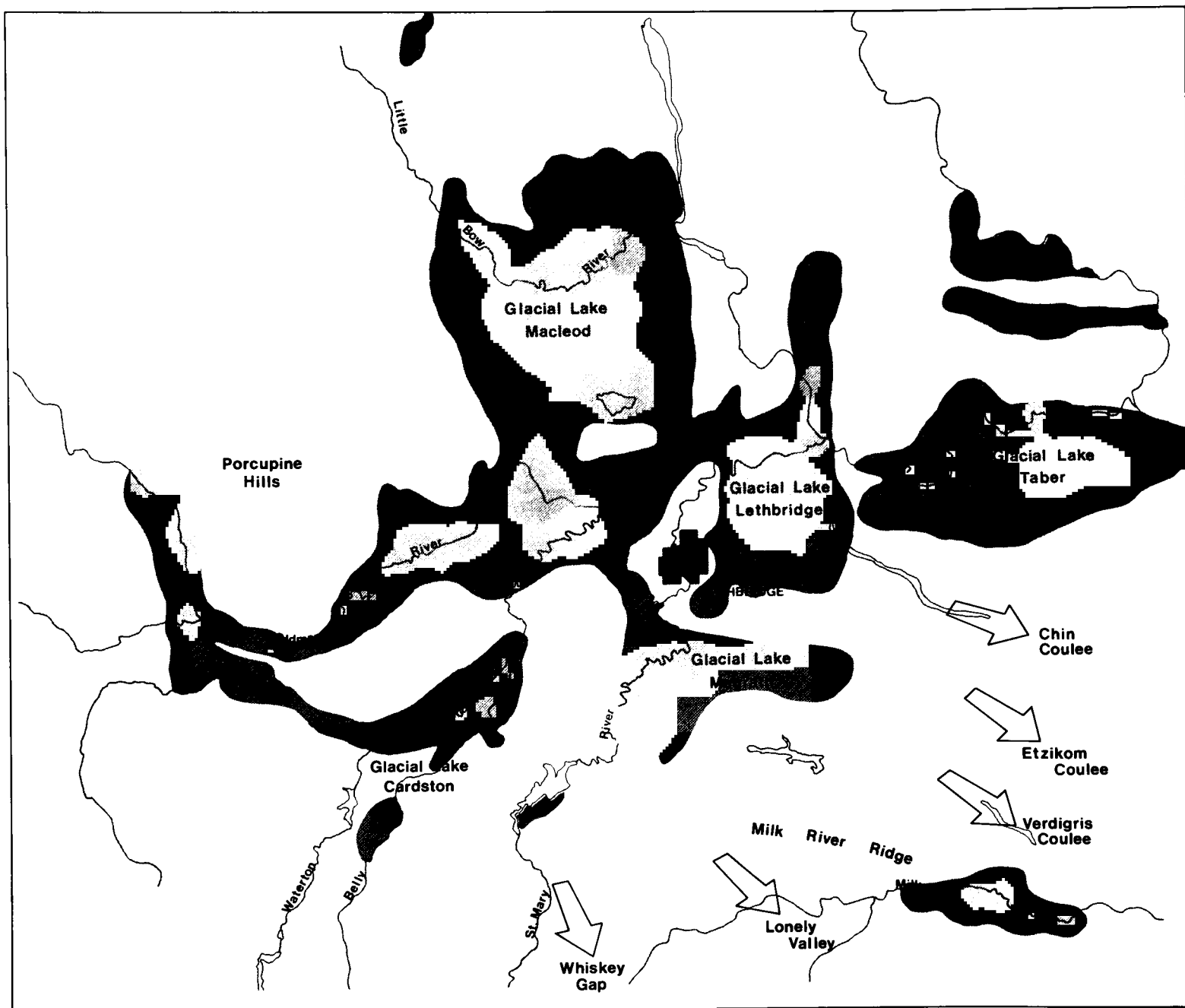
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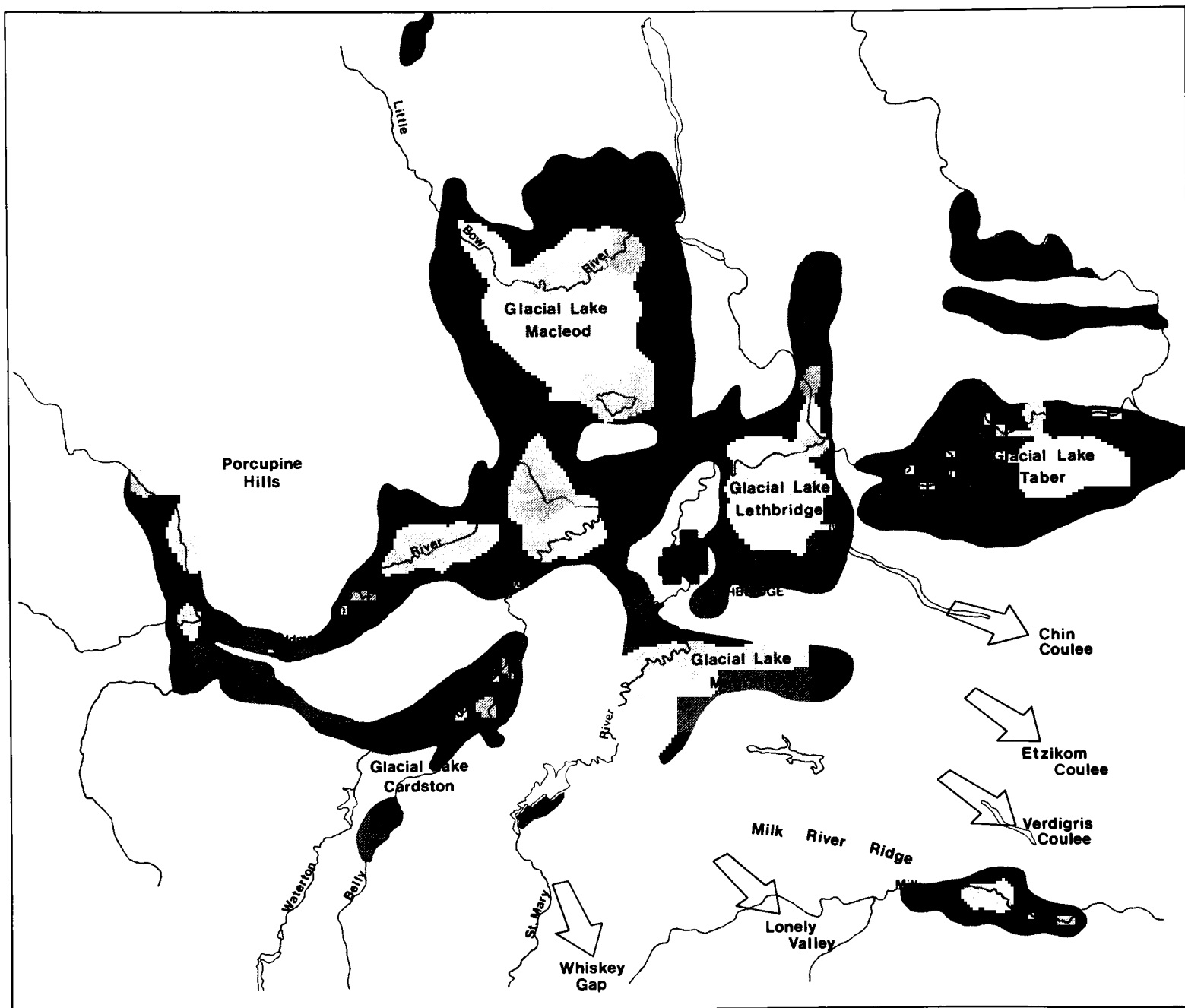
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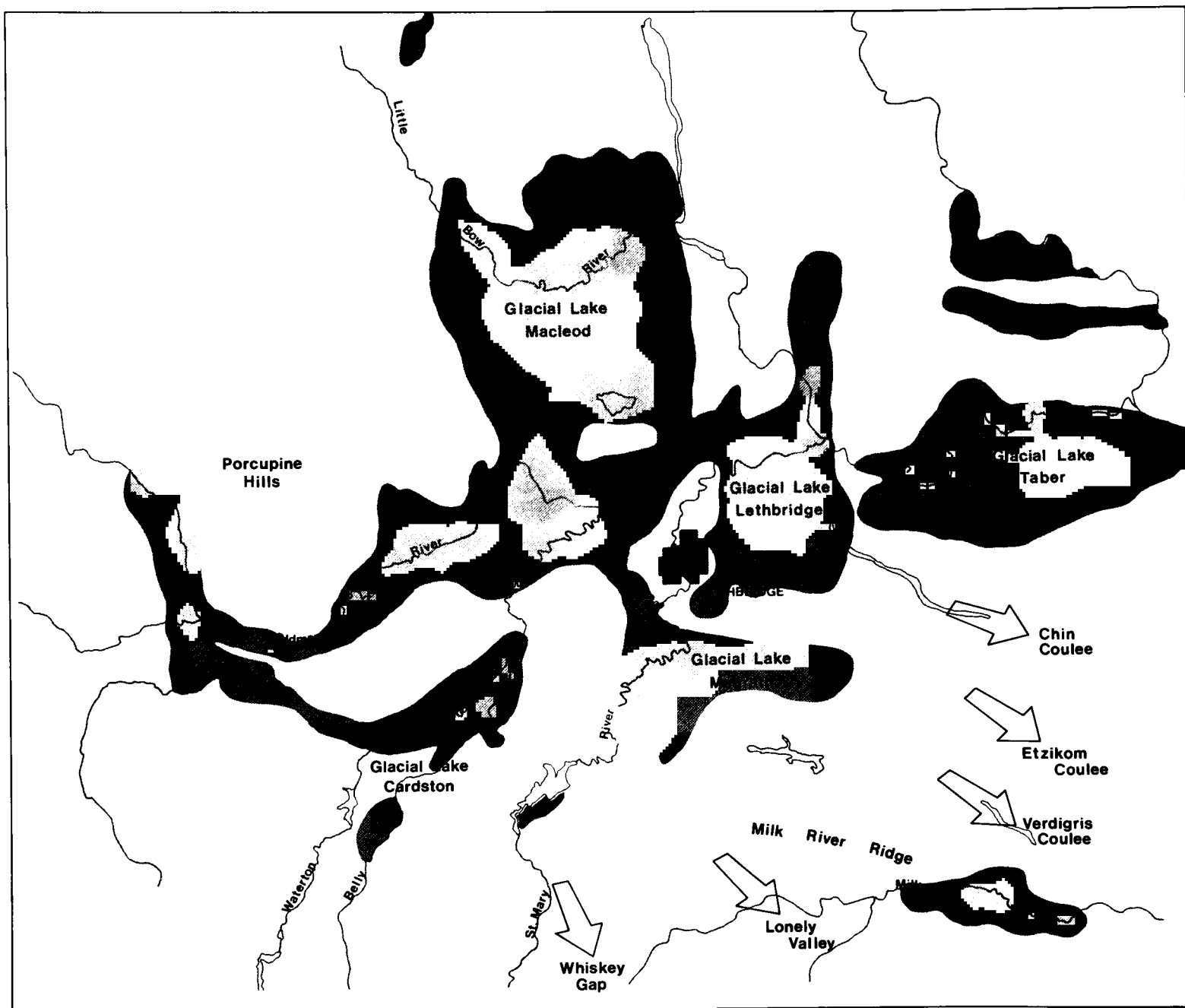
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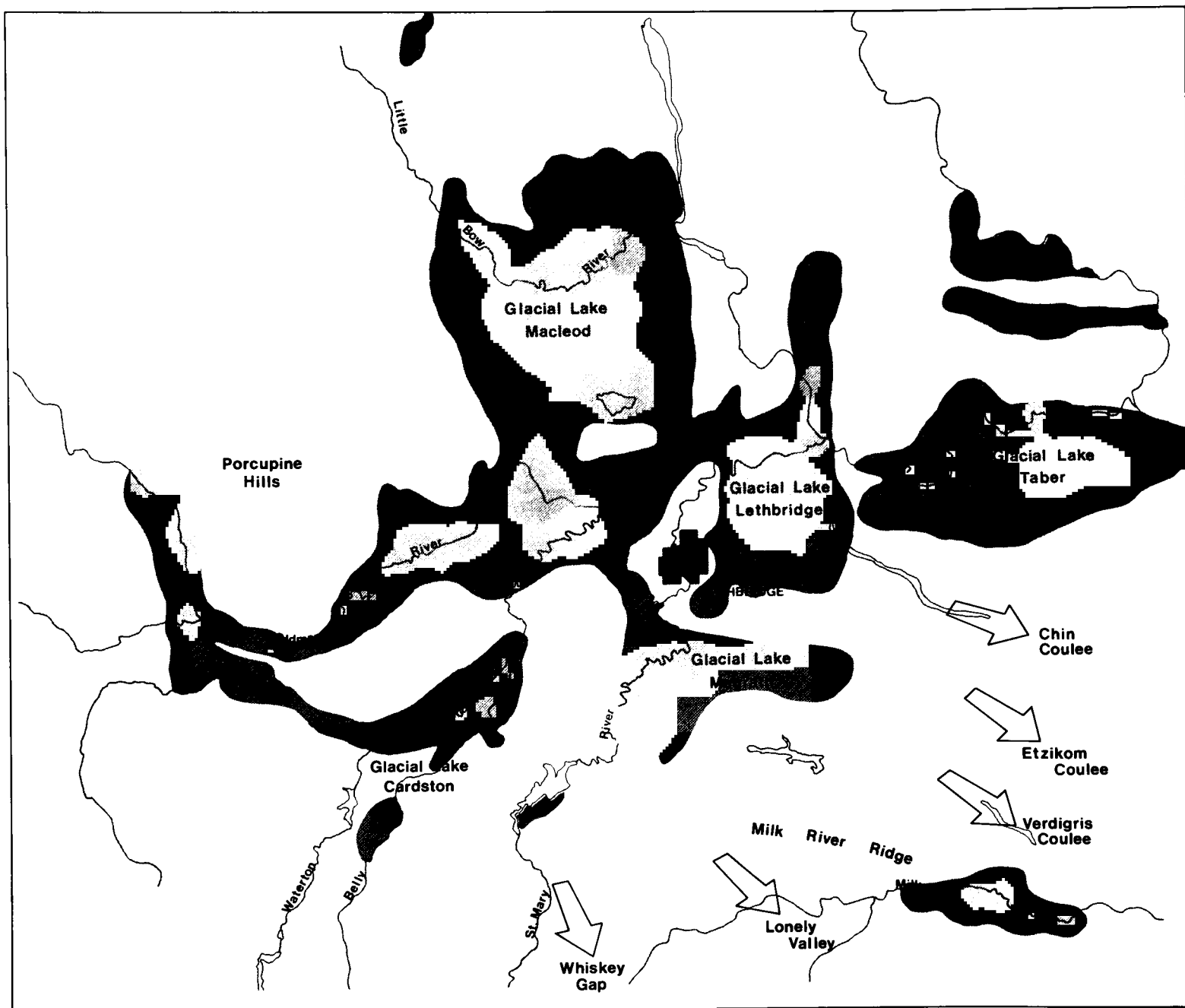
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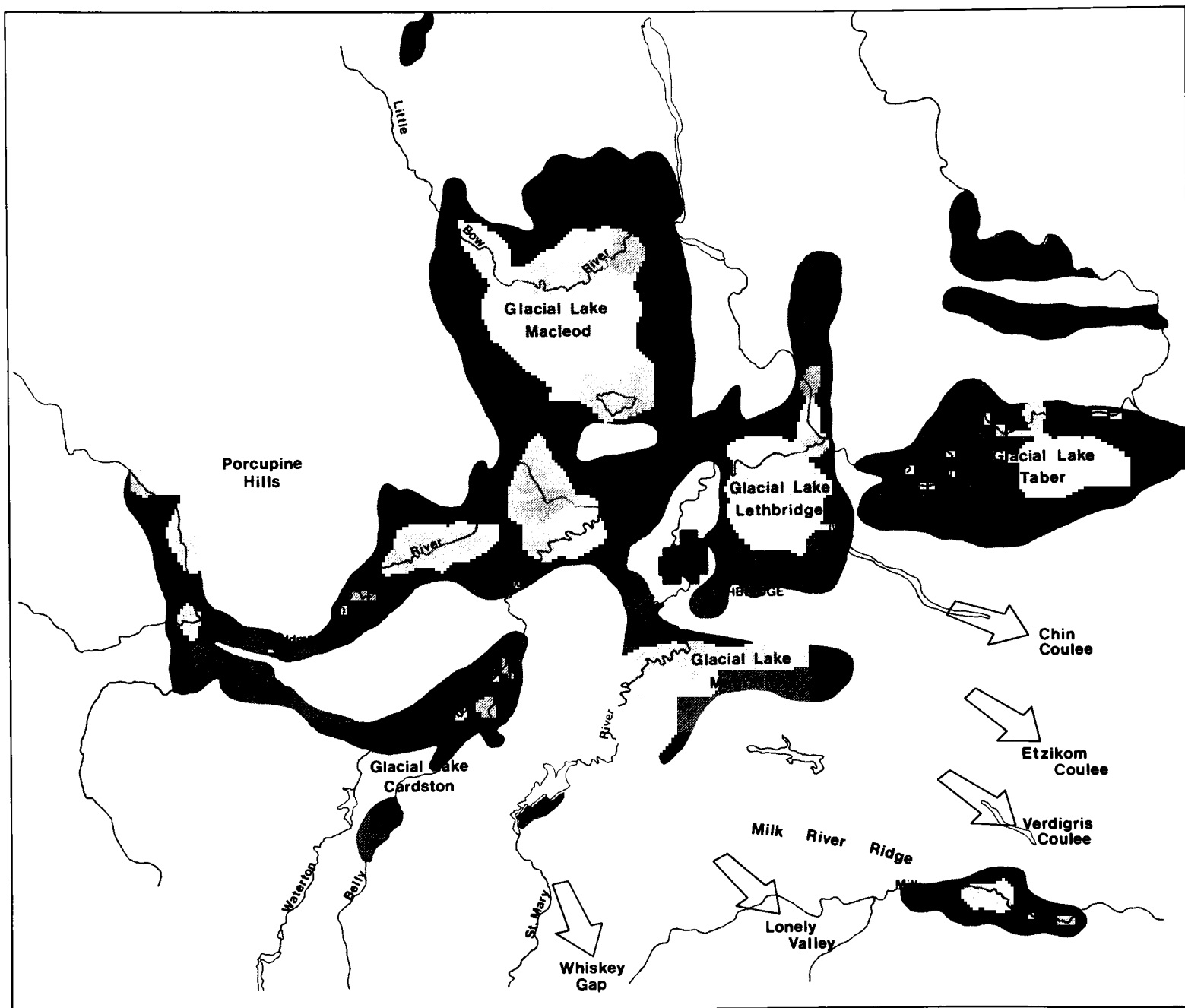
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The origin and vitality of the City of Lethbridge are deeply rooted in its natural environment. The vast coal beds of southern Alberta attracted the entrepreneur and the miner, while the great expanse of fertile land lured the rancher and the farmer. When rainfall proved to be too scarce and too irregular for intensive agriculture, local rivers provided vital water supplies for irrigation. Coal, soil and water: these three resources gave Lethbridge its life and strength.

The creation of this natural wealth required an aeons-long process of geological and climatic changes, which slowly but relentlessly shaped and sculptured the landscape.

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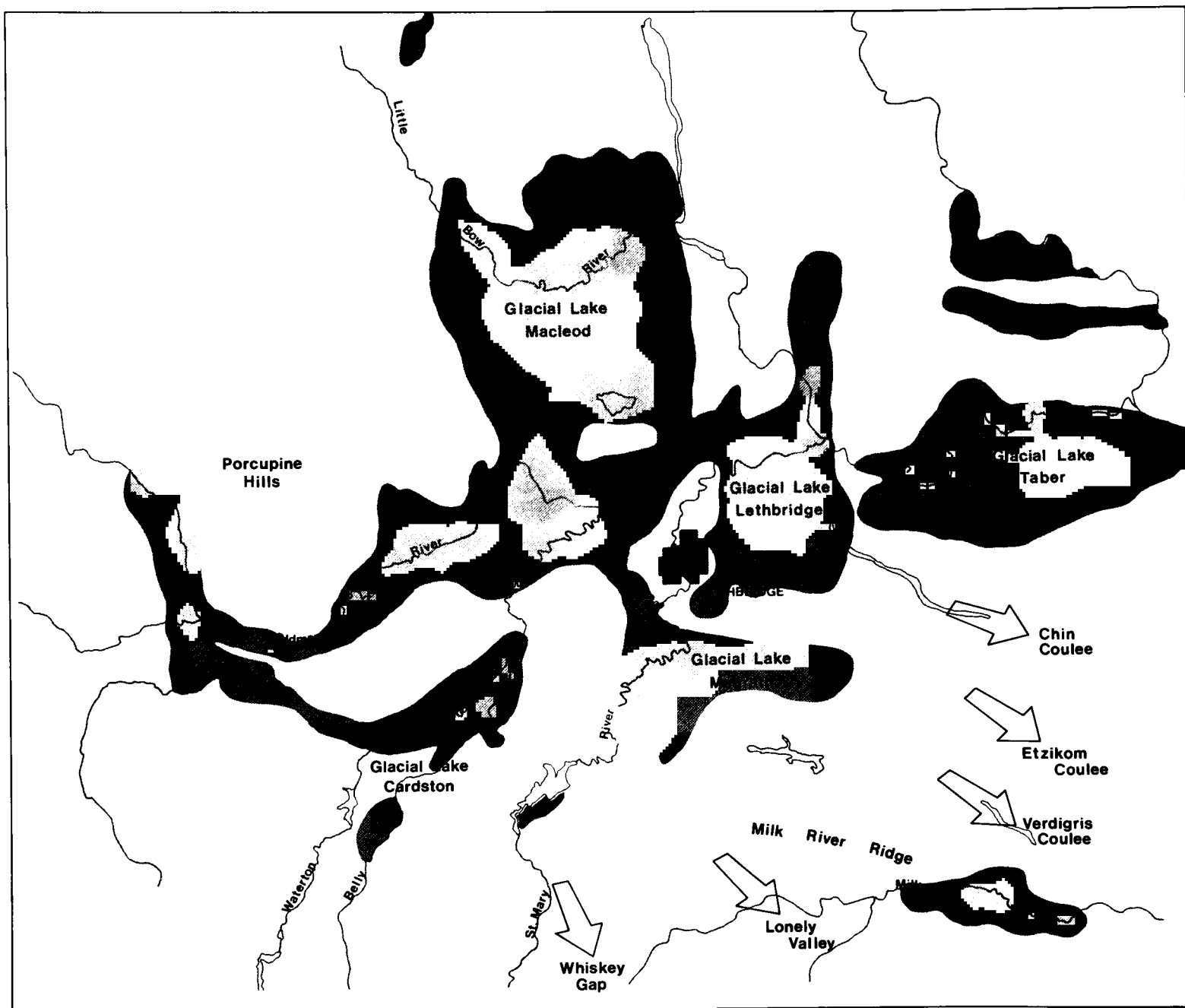
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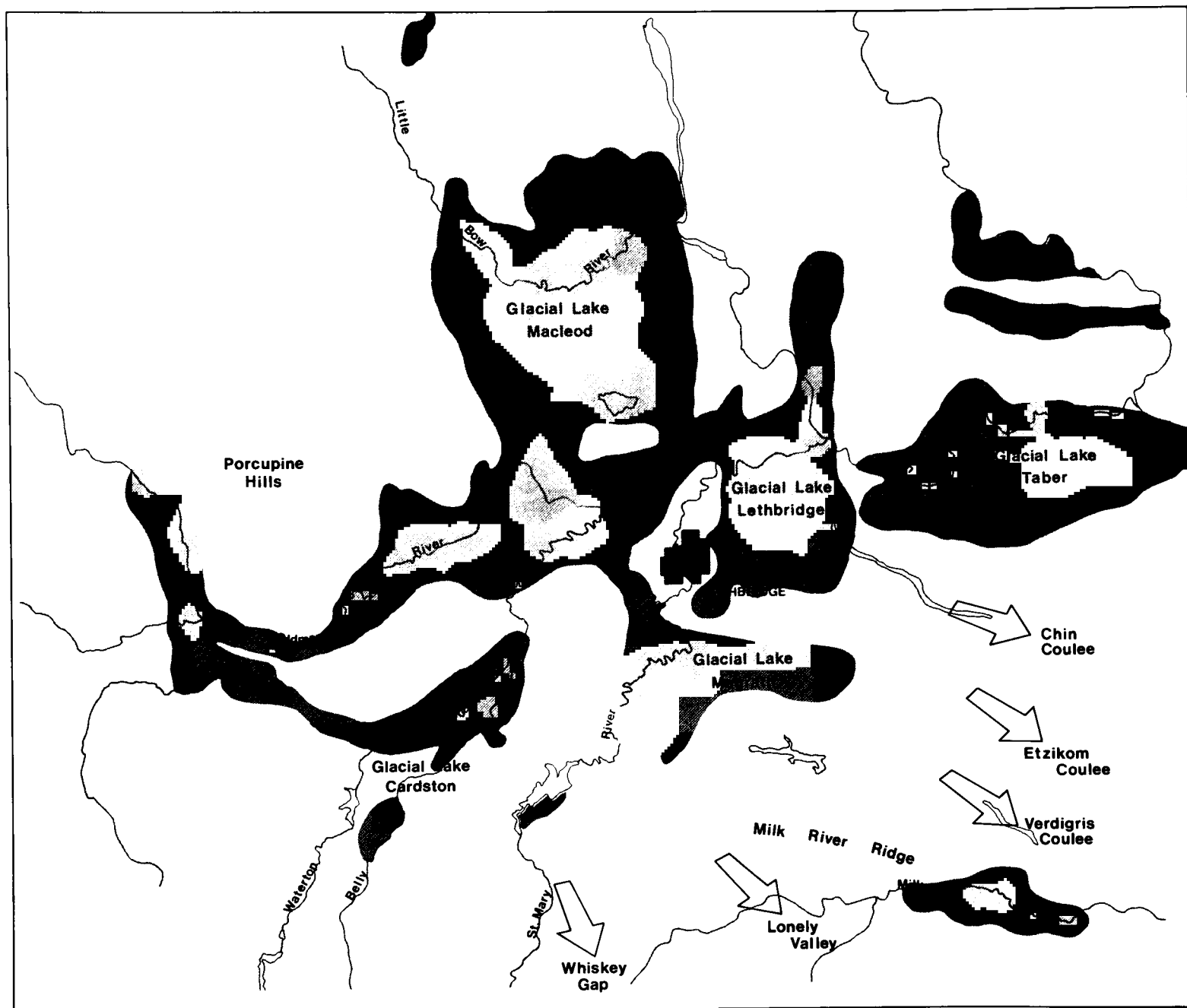
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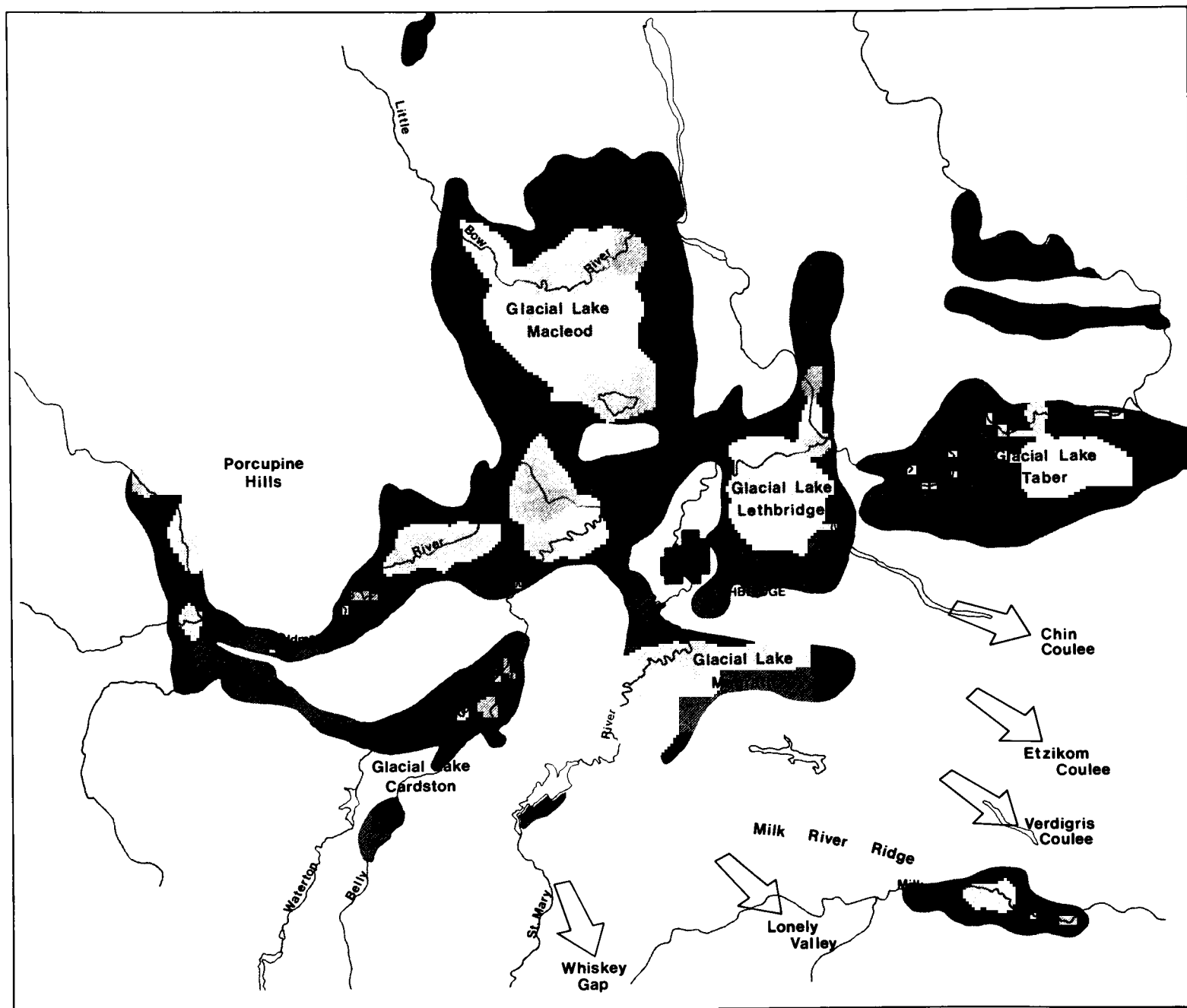
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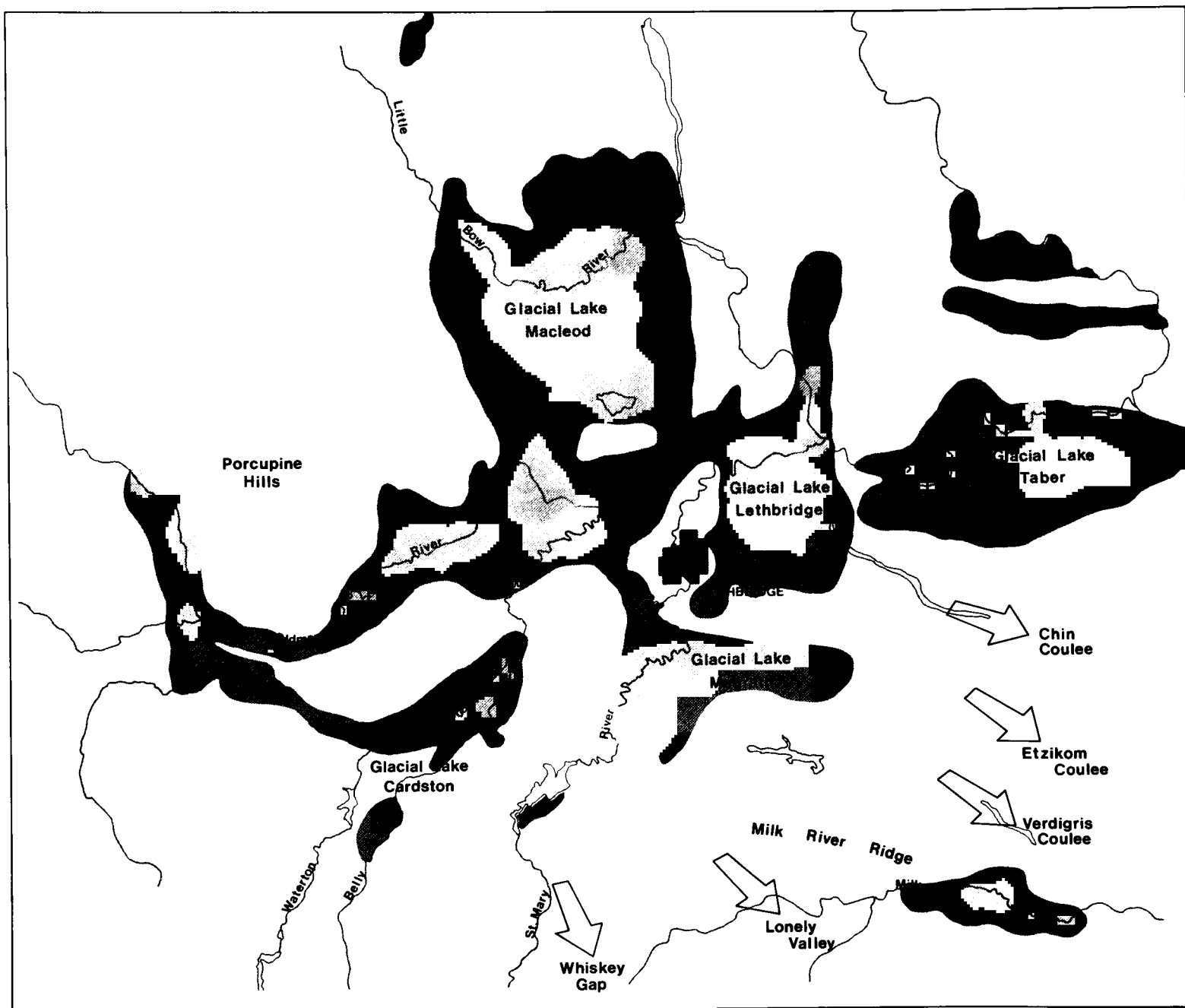
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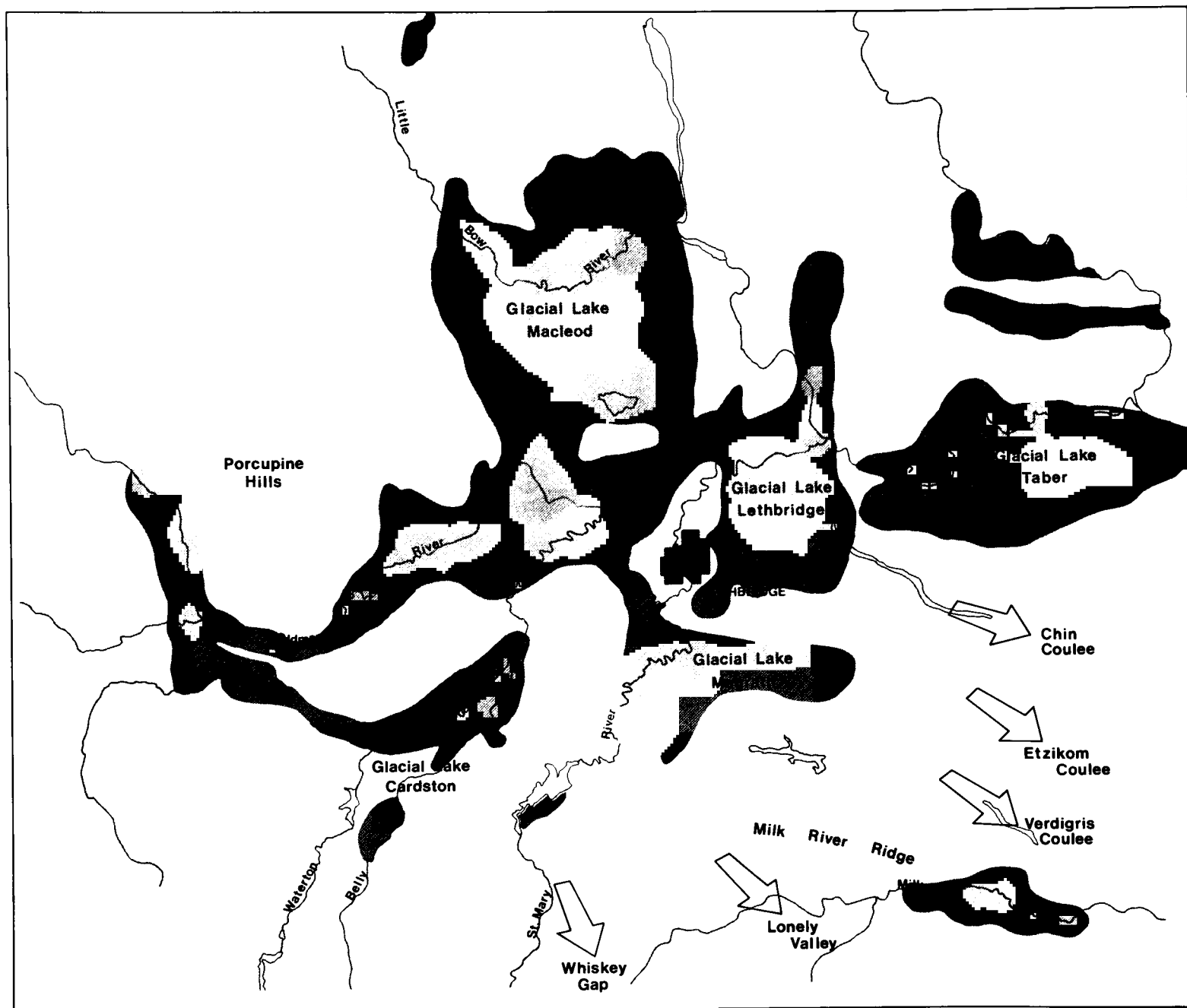
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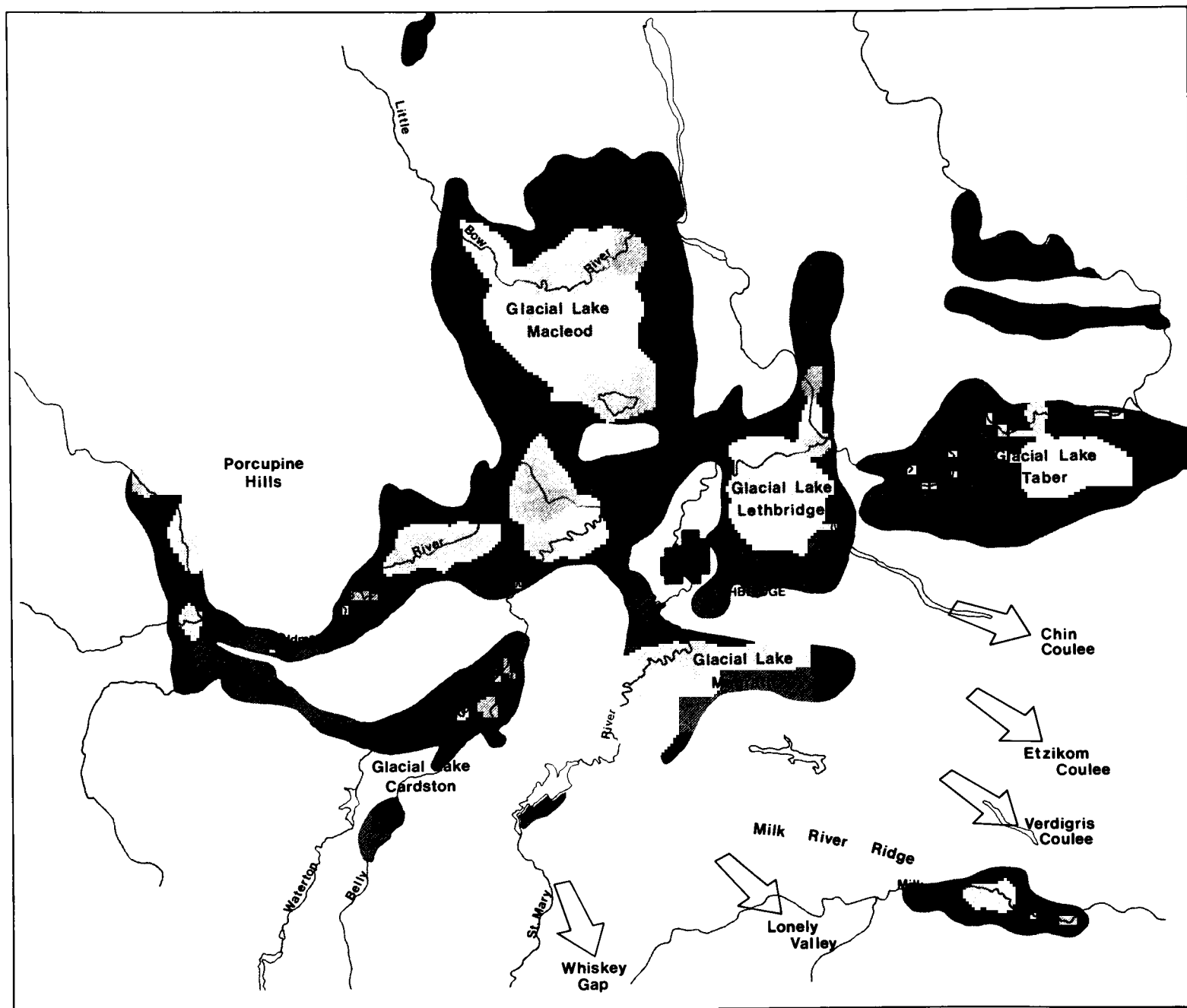
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Chapter One

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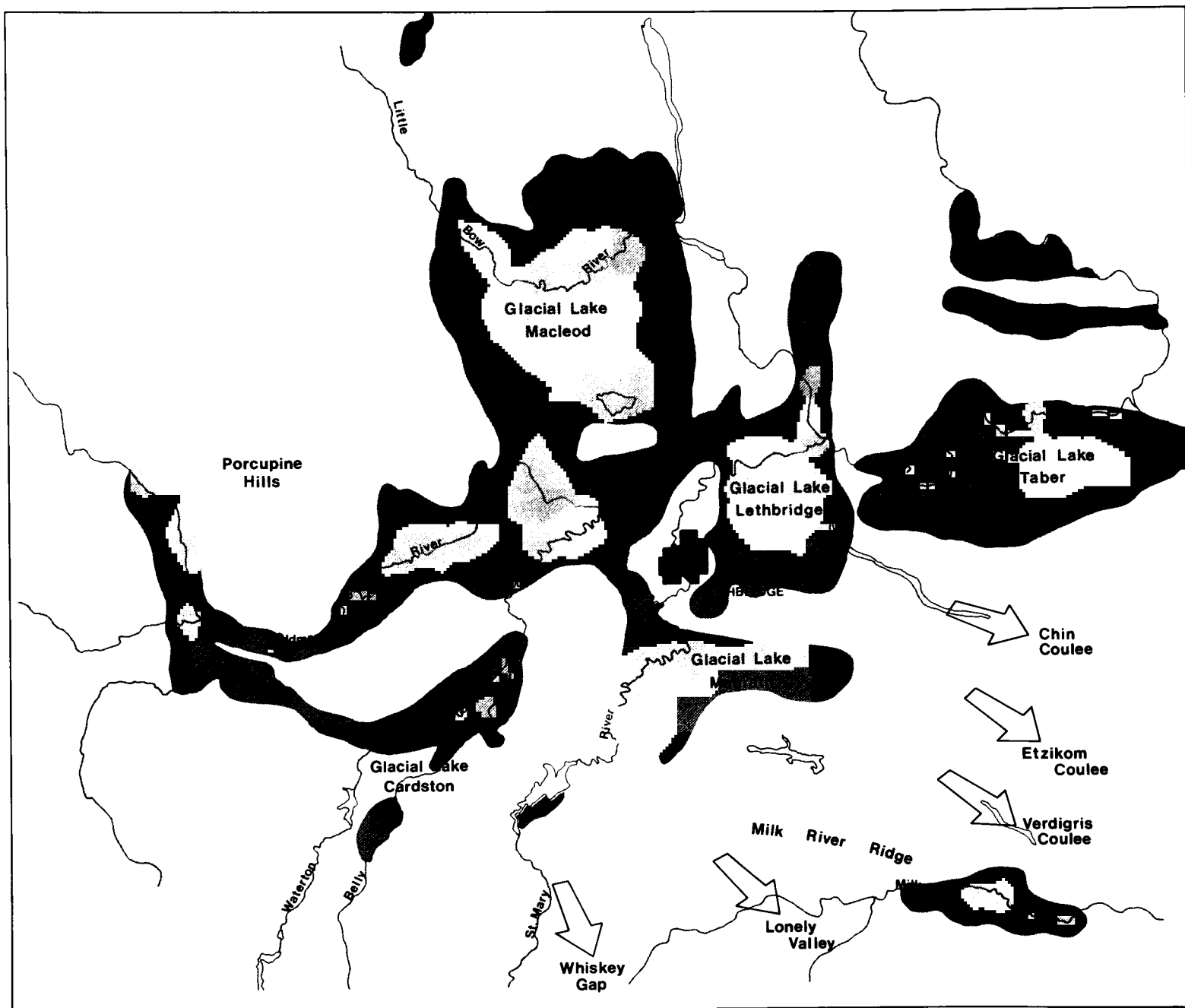
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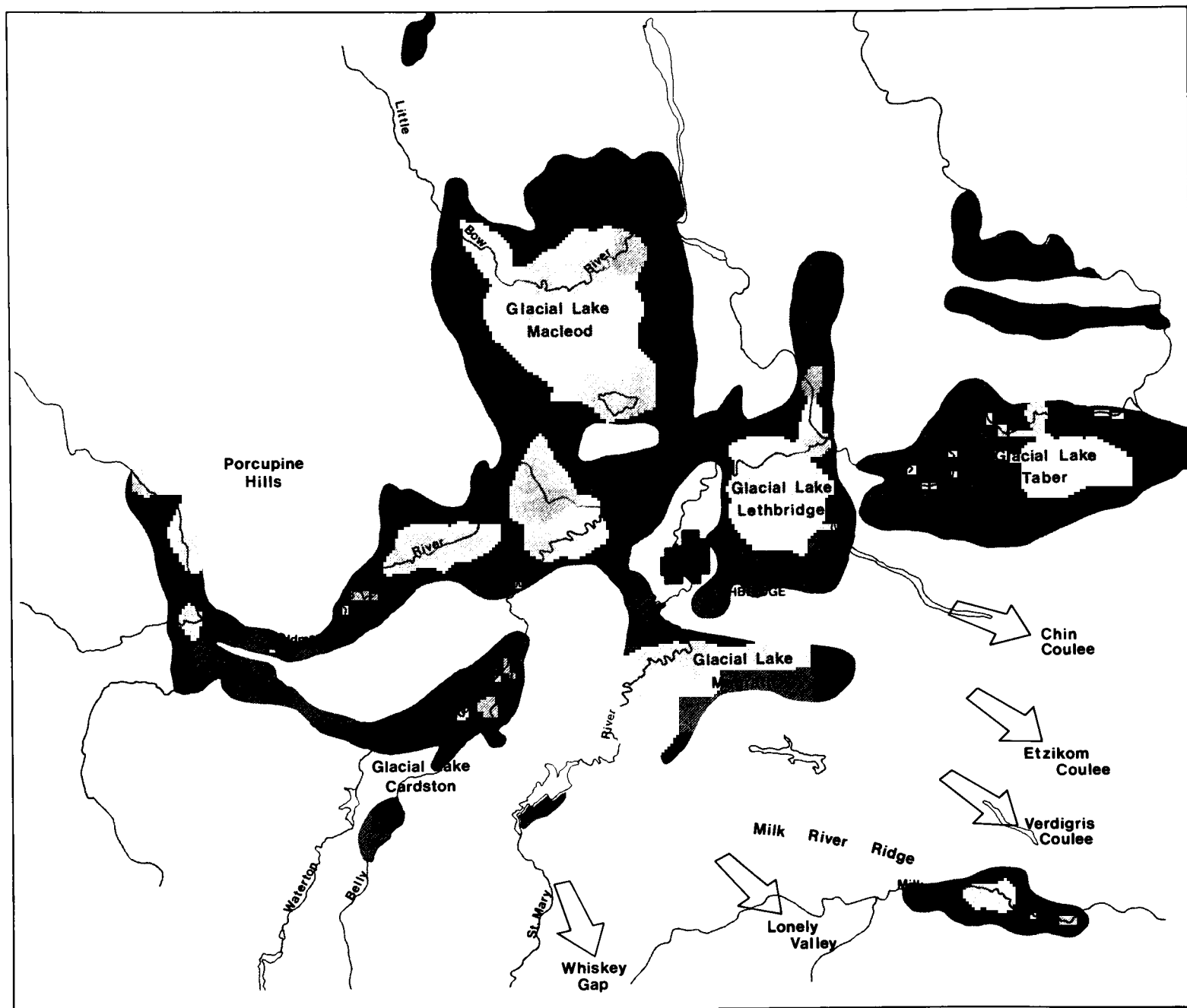
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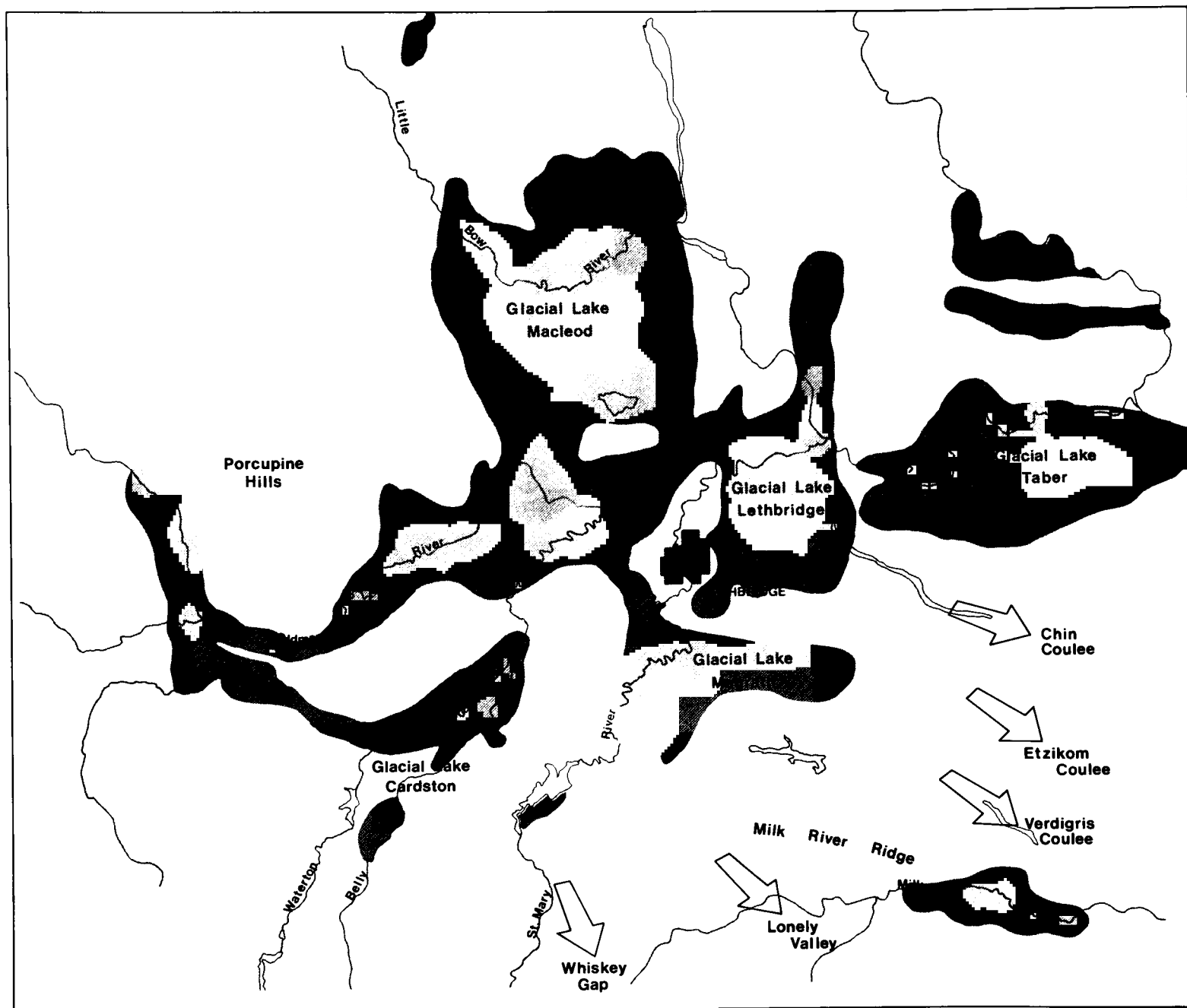
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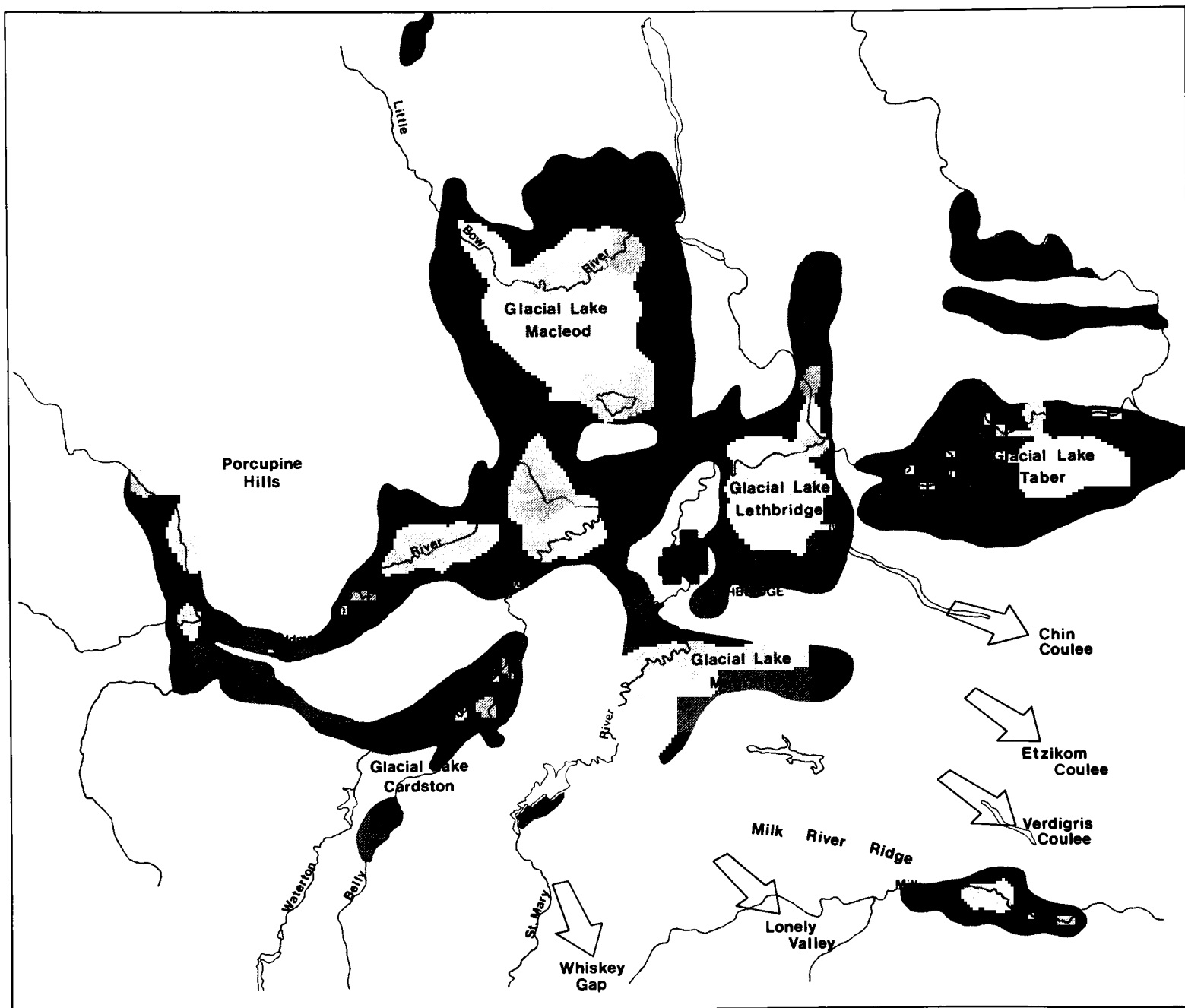
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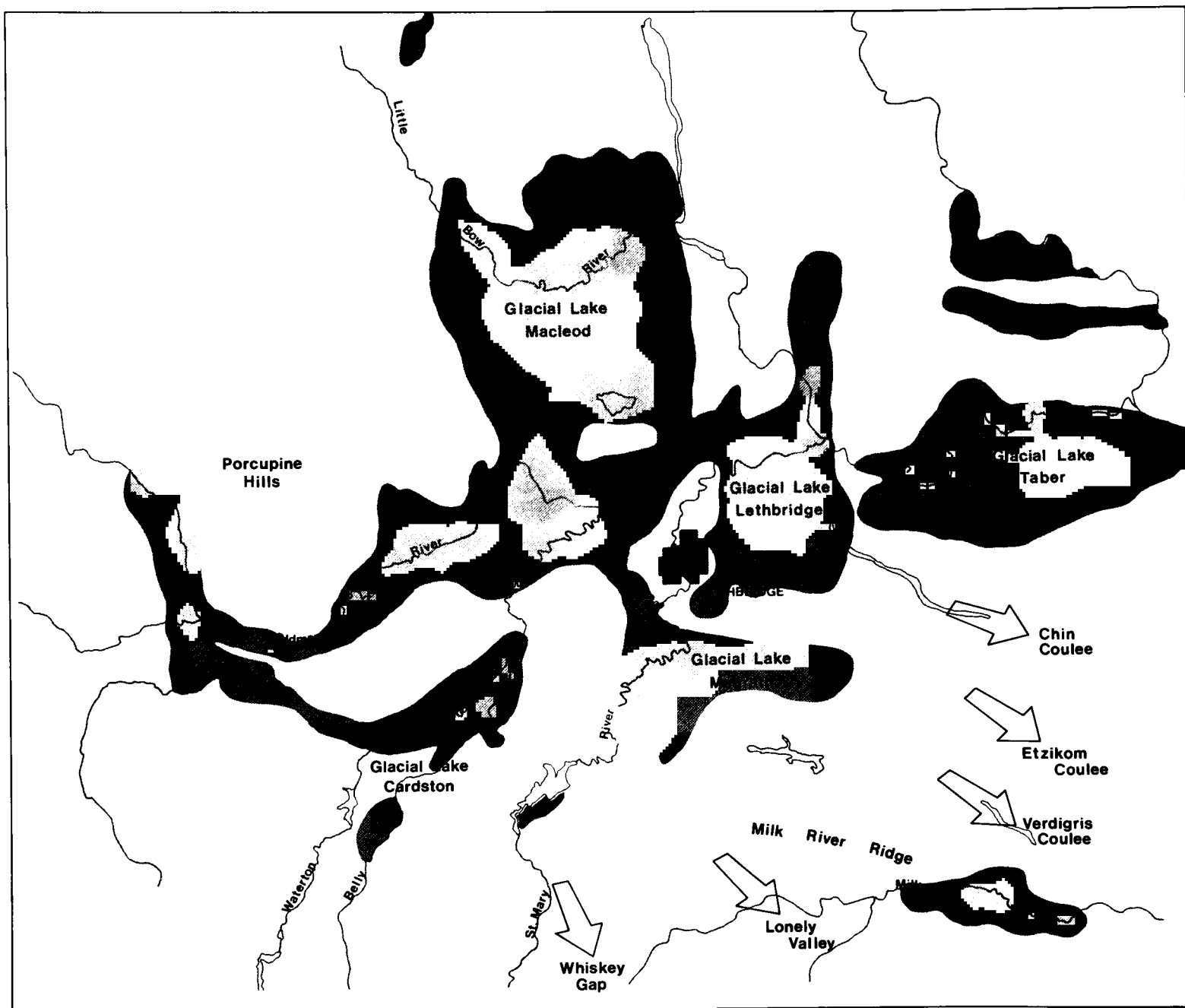
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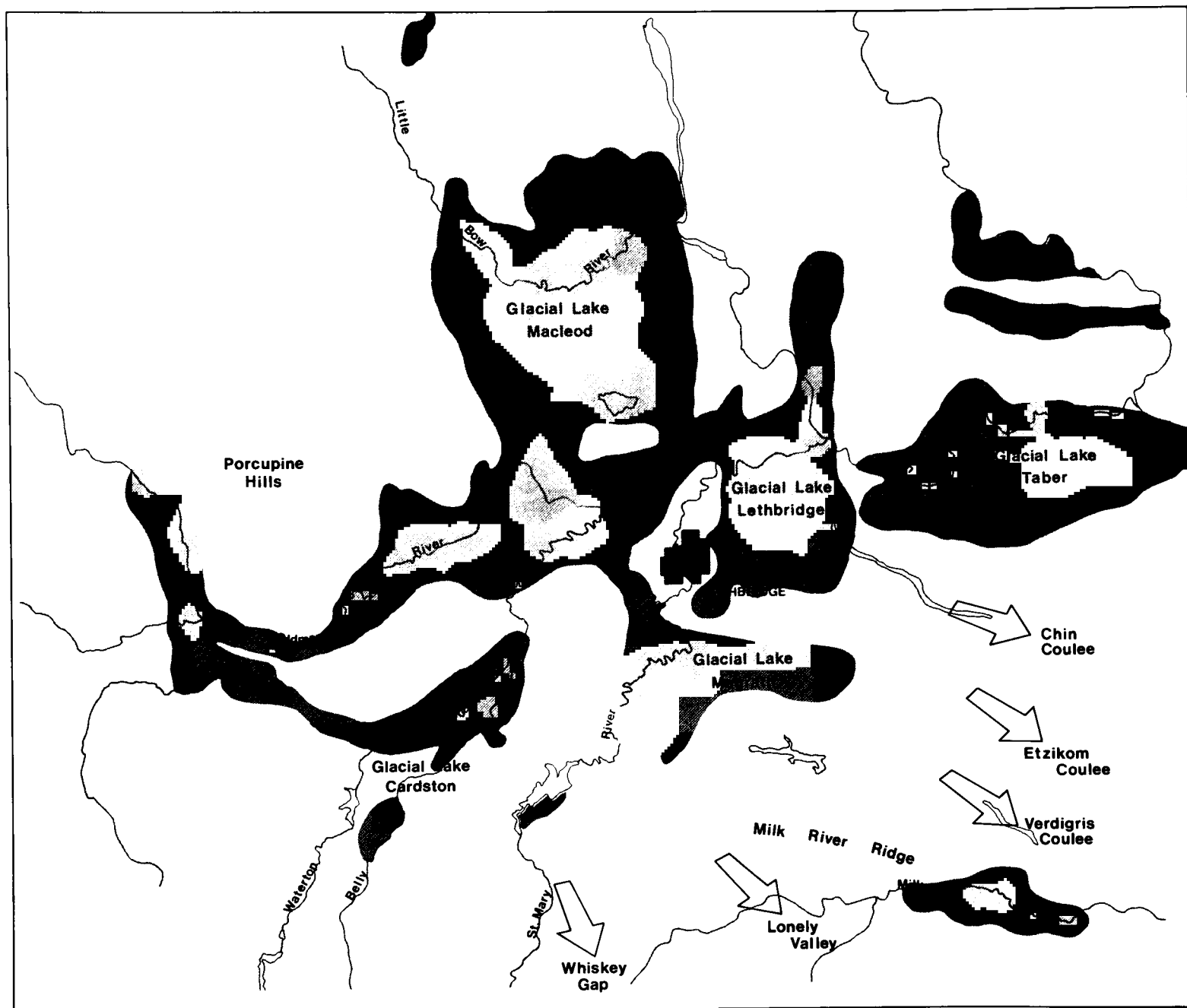
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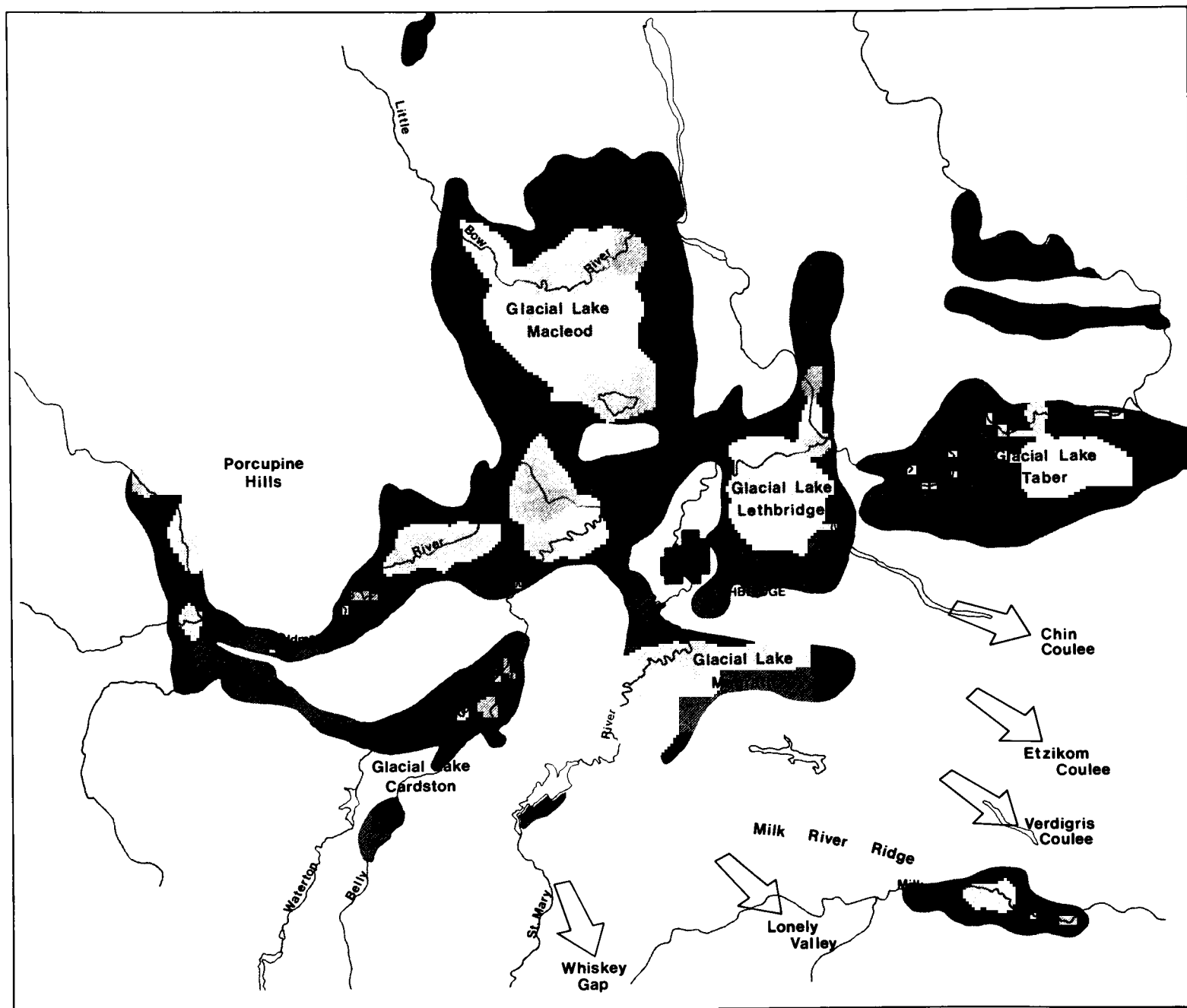
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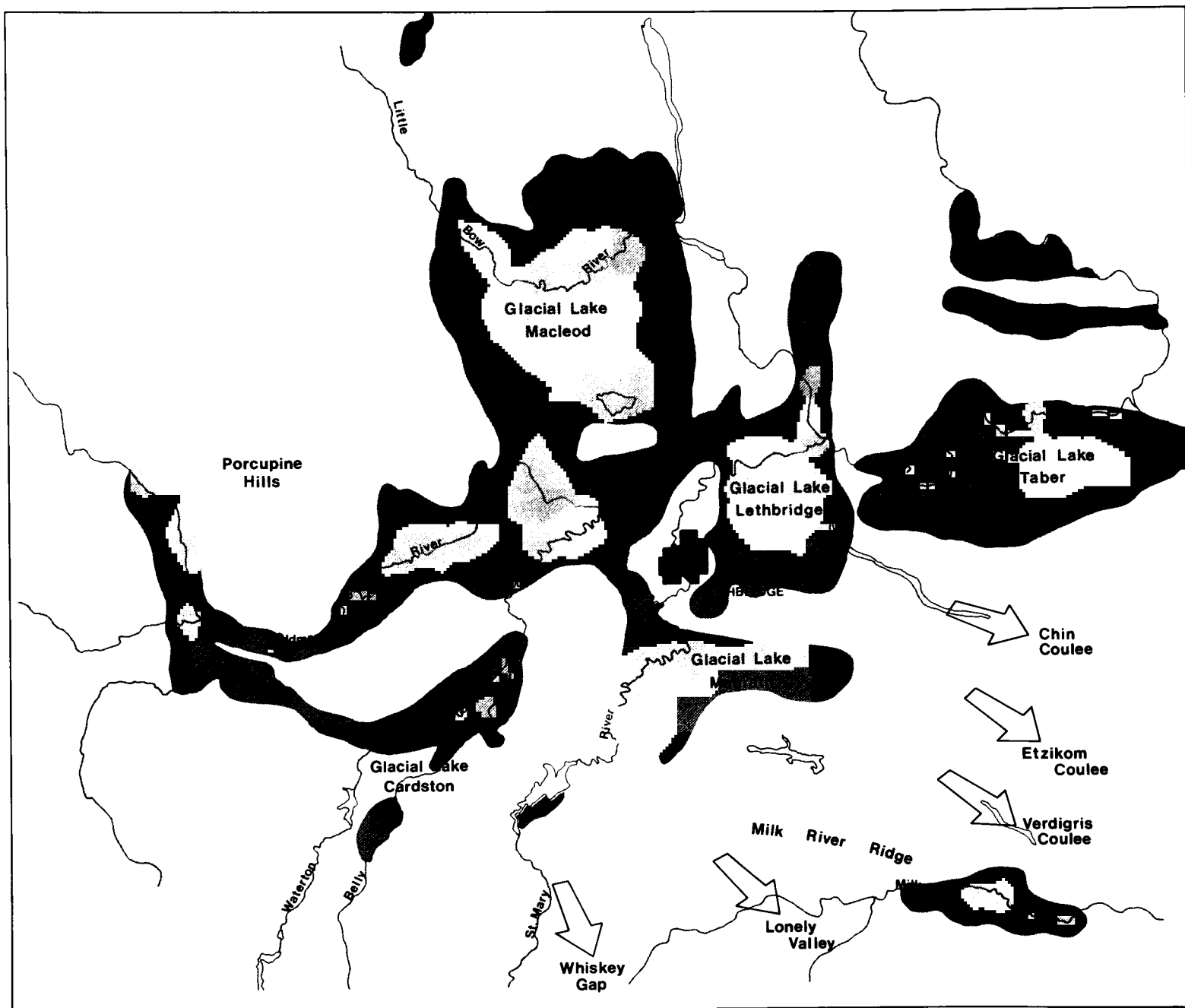
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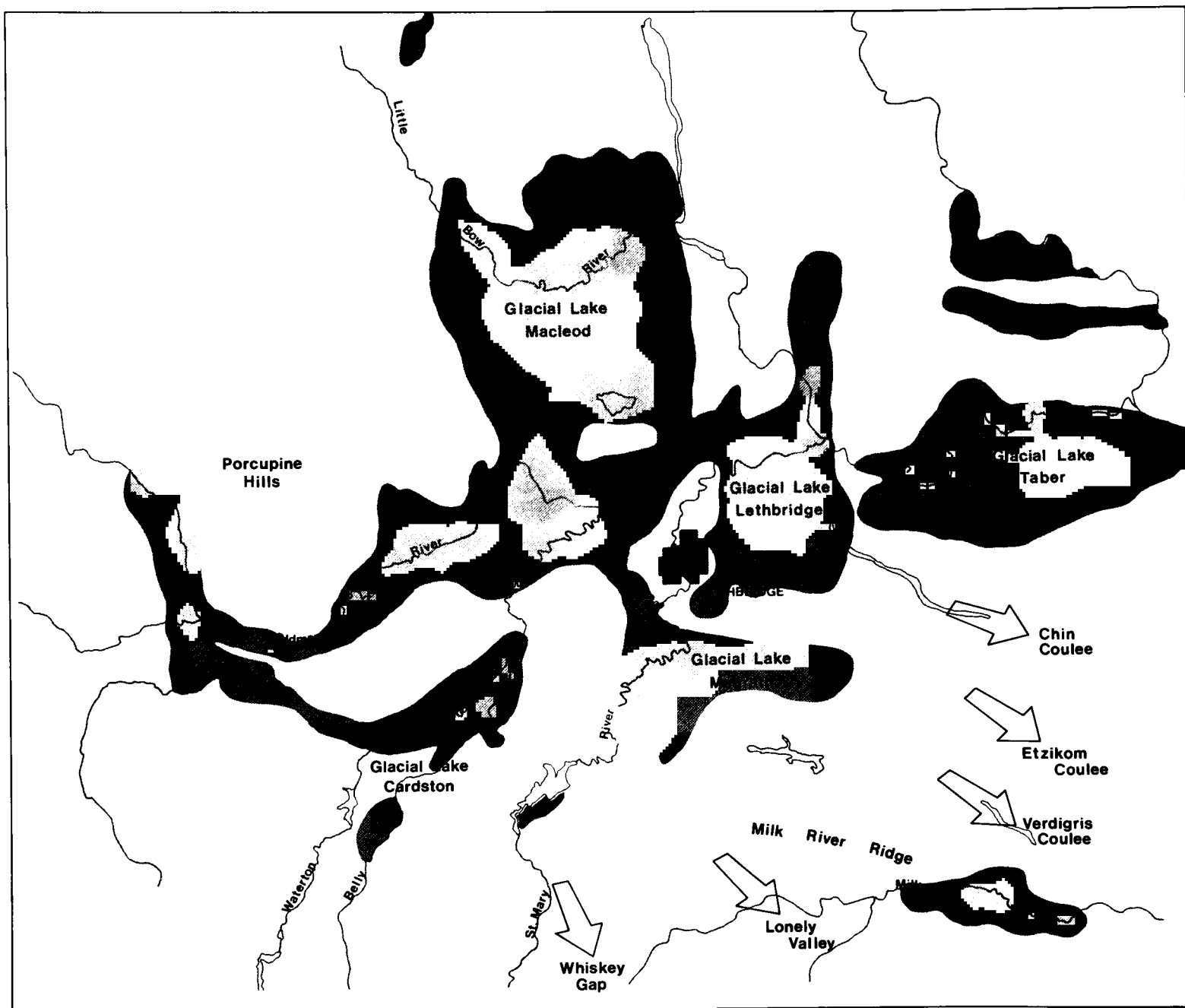
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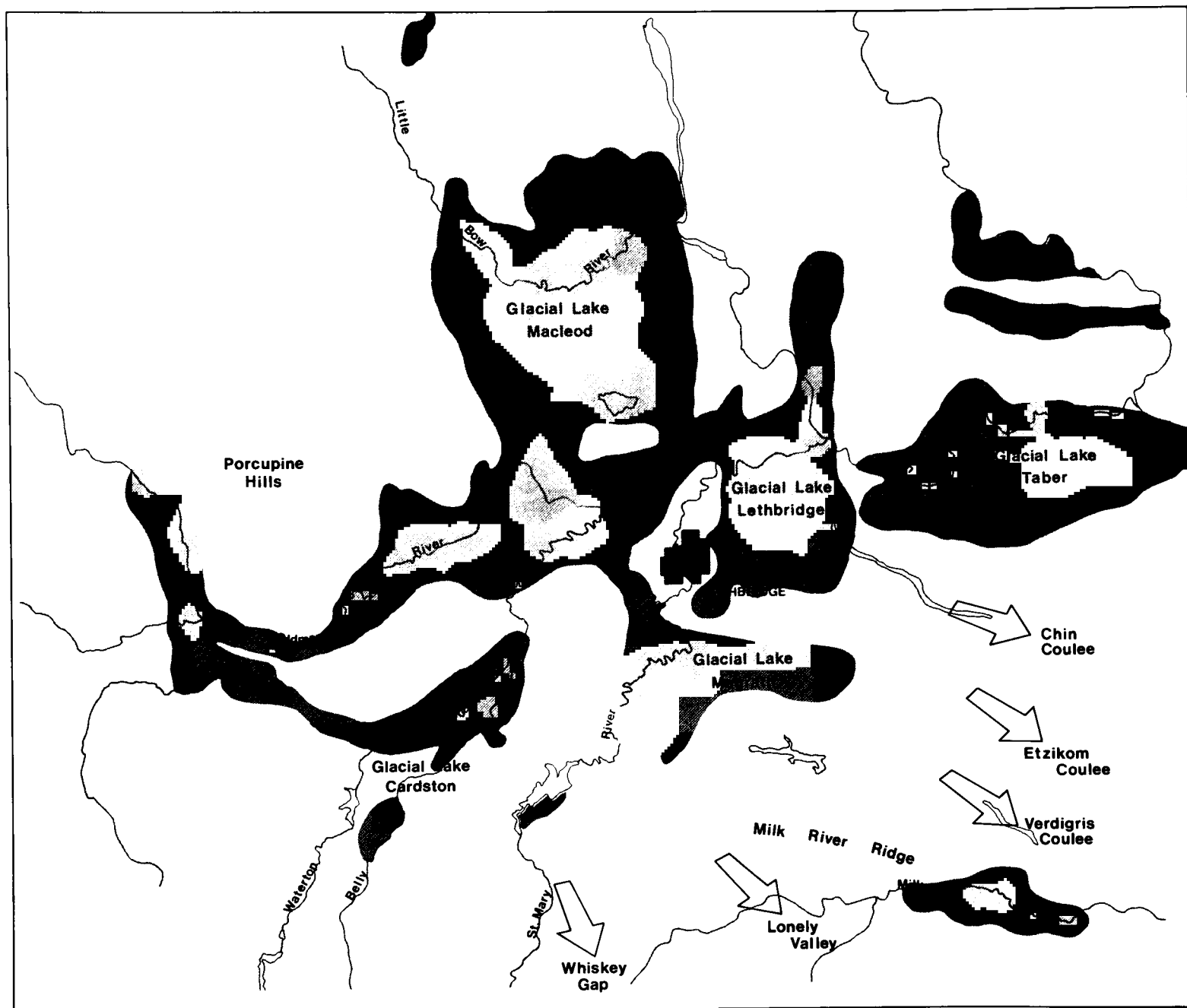
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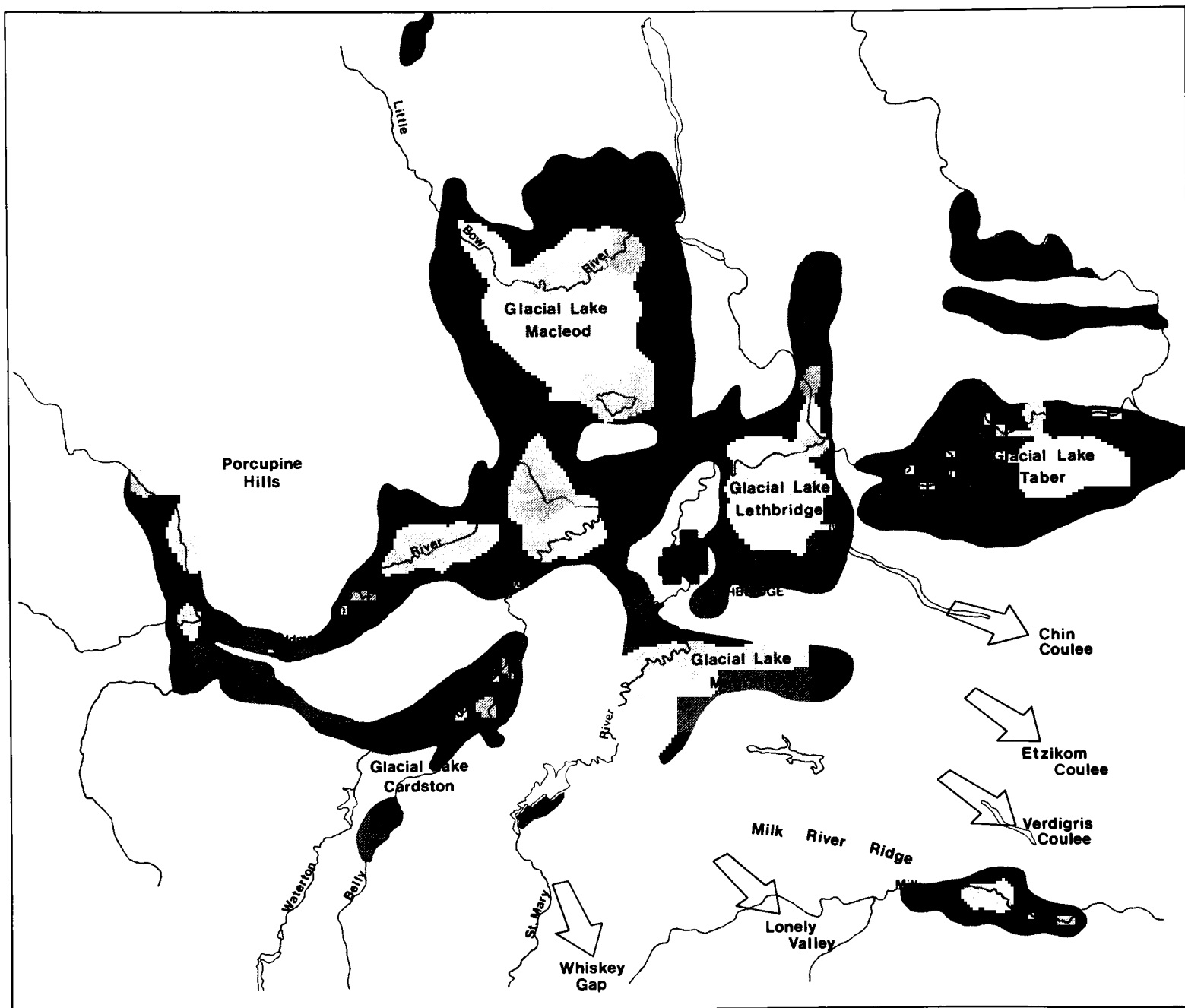
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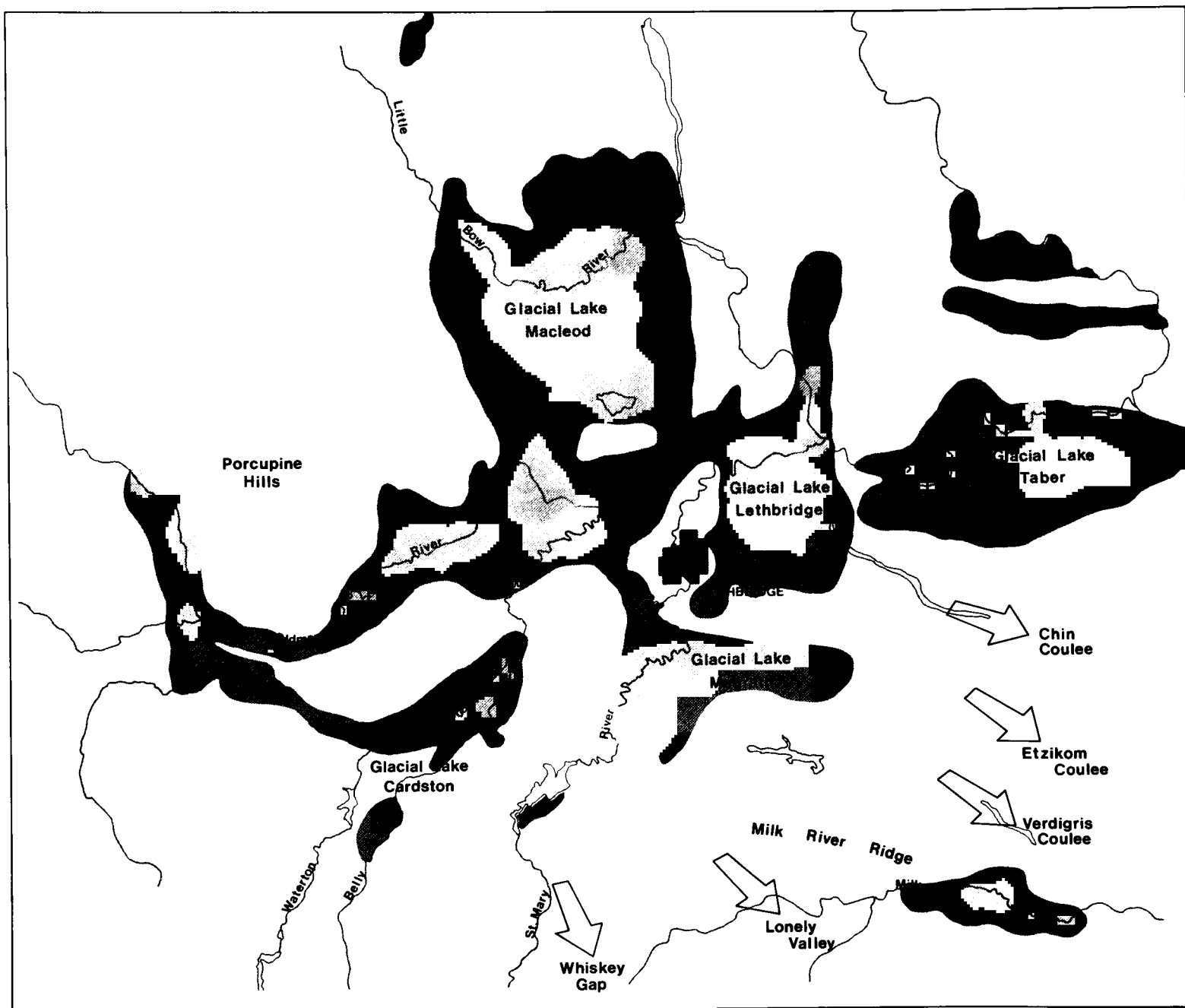
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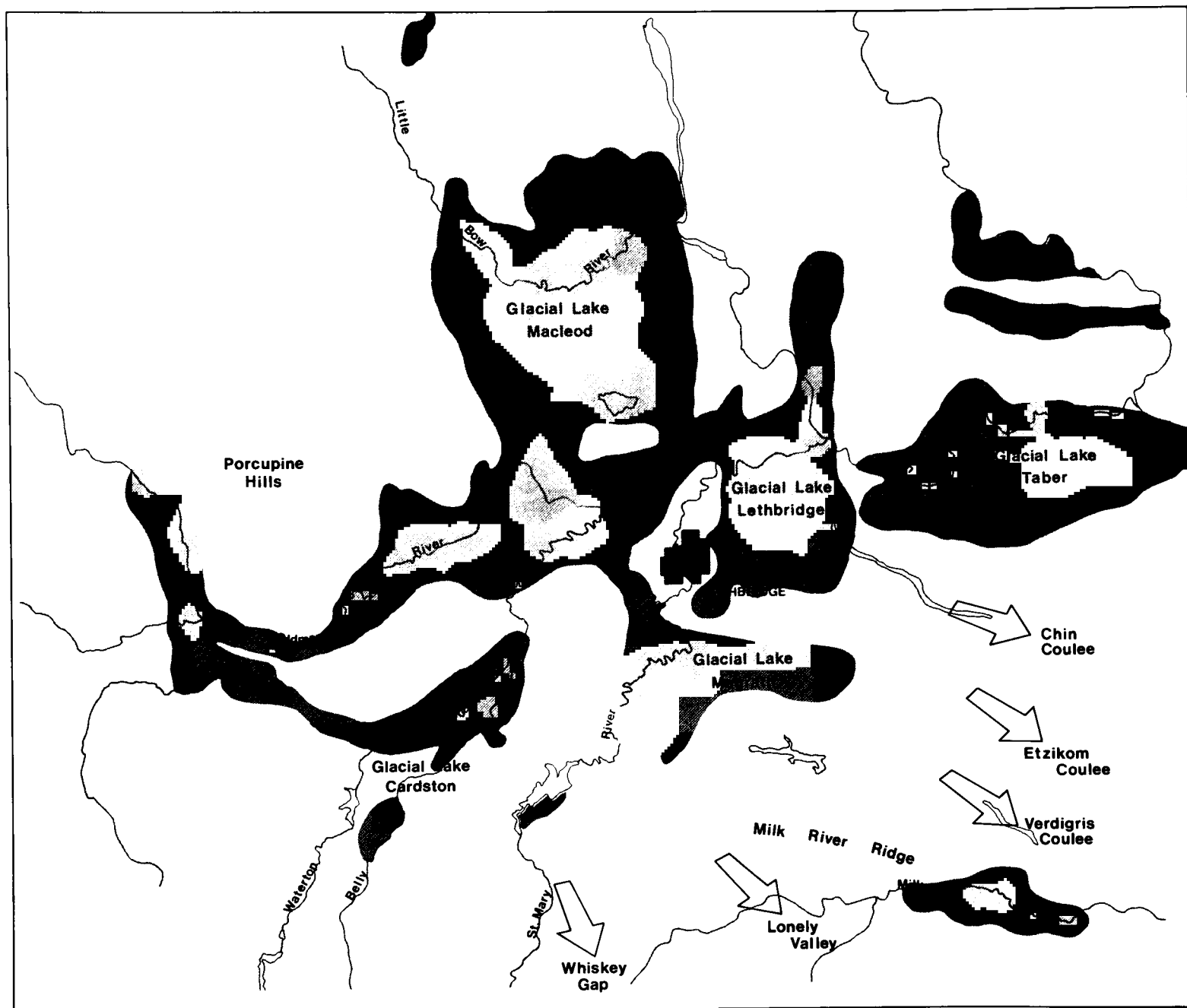
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The creation of this natural wealth required an aeons-long process of geological and climatic changes, which slowly but relentlessly shaped and sculptured the landscape.

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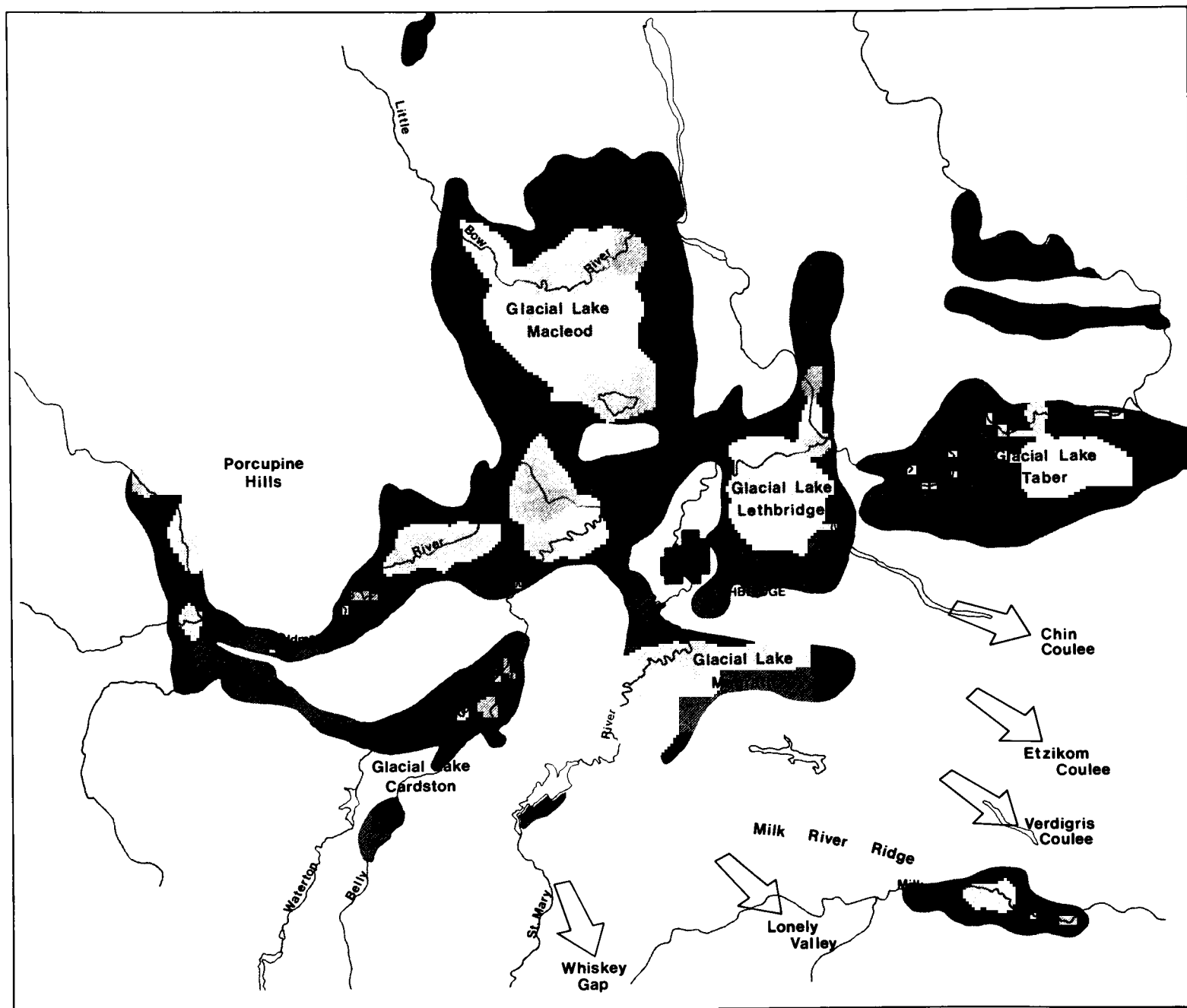
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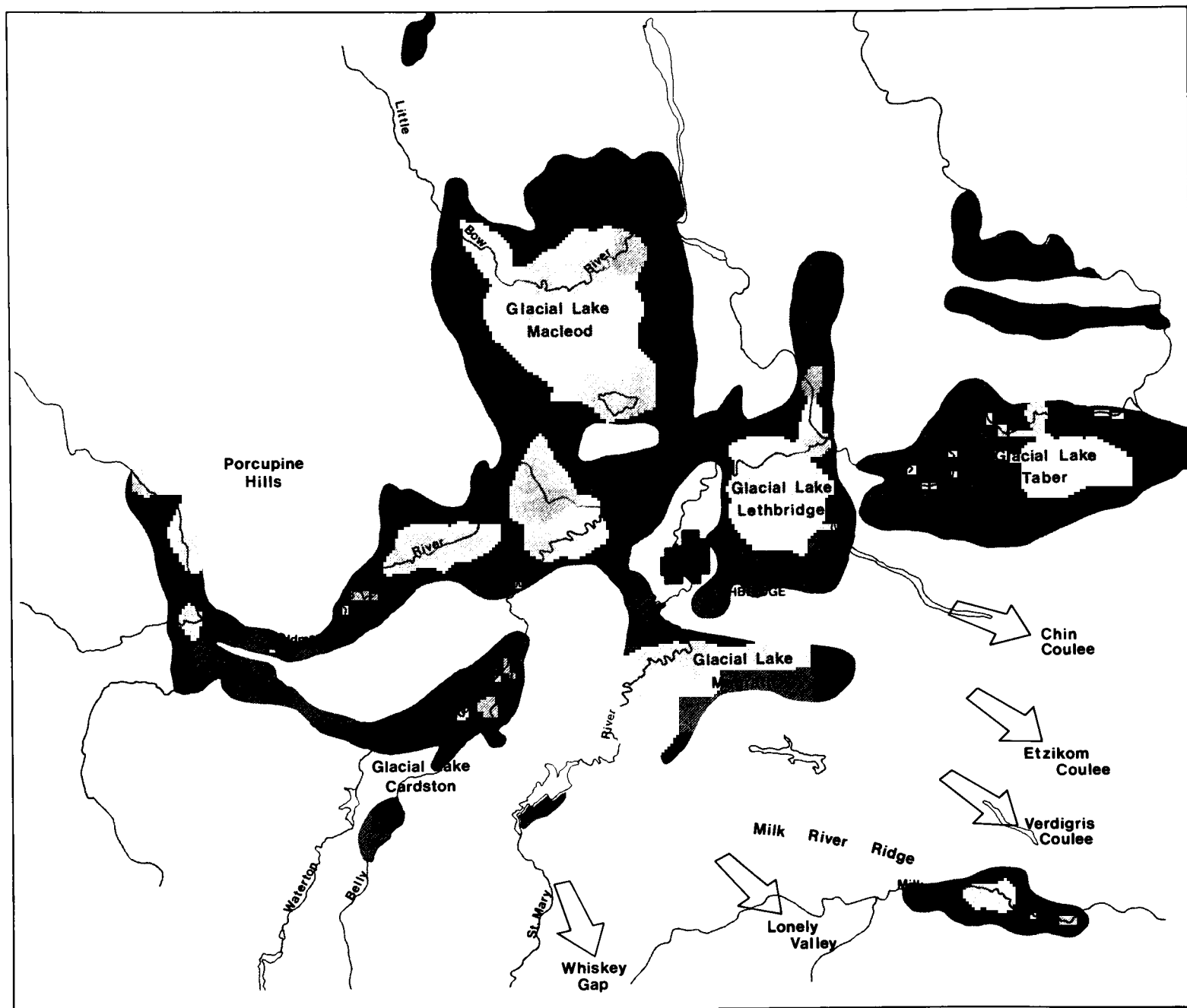
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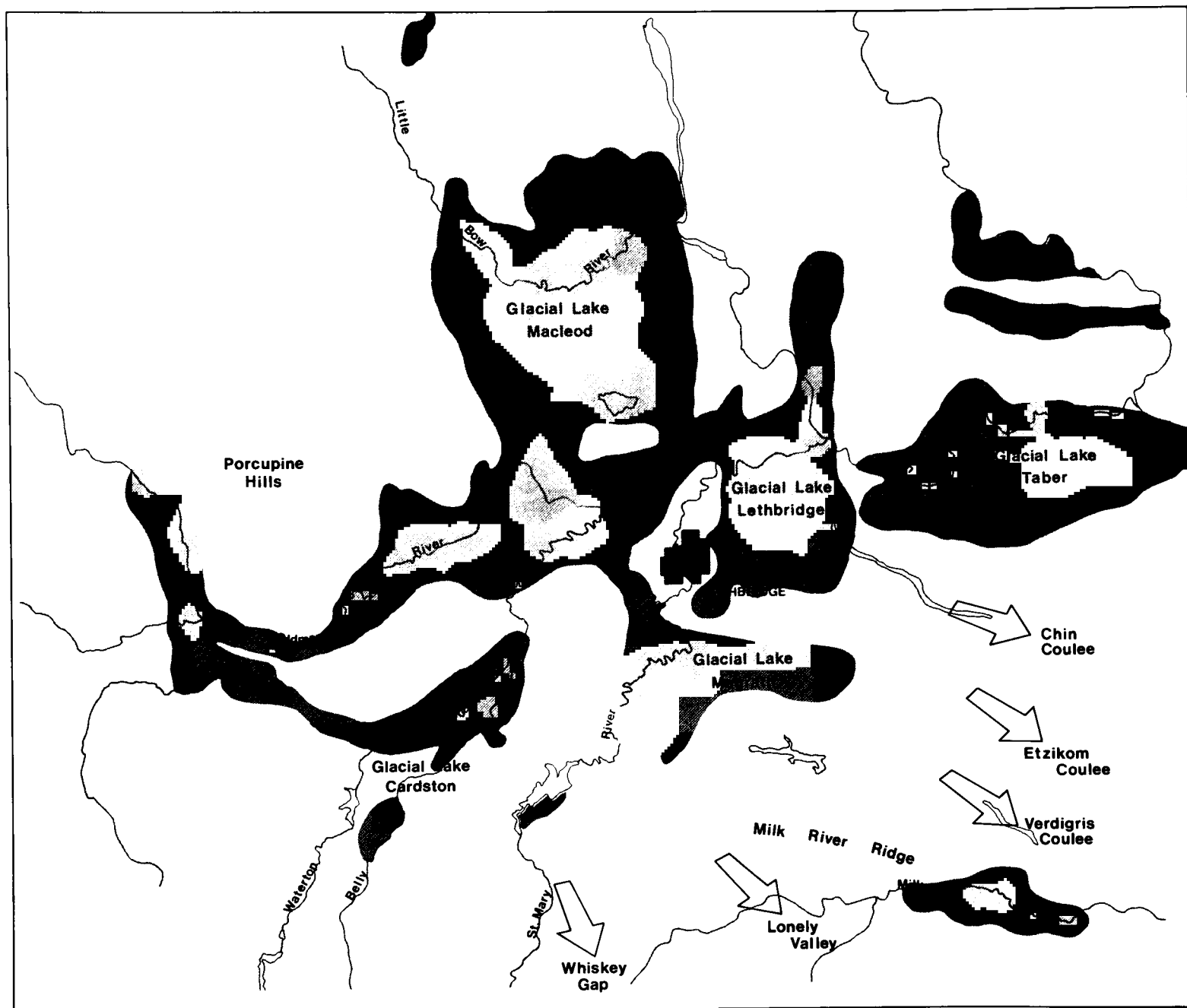
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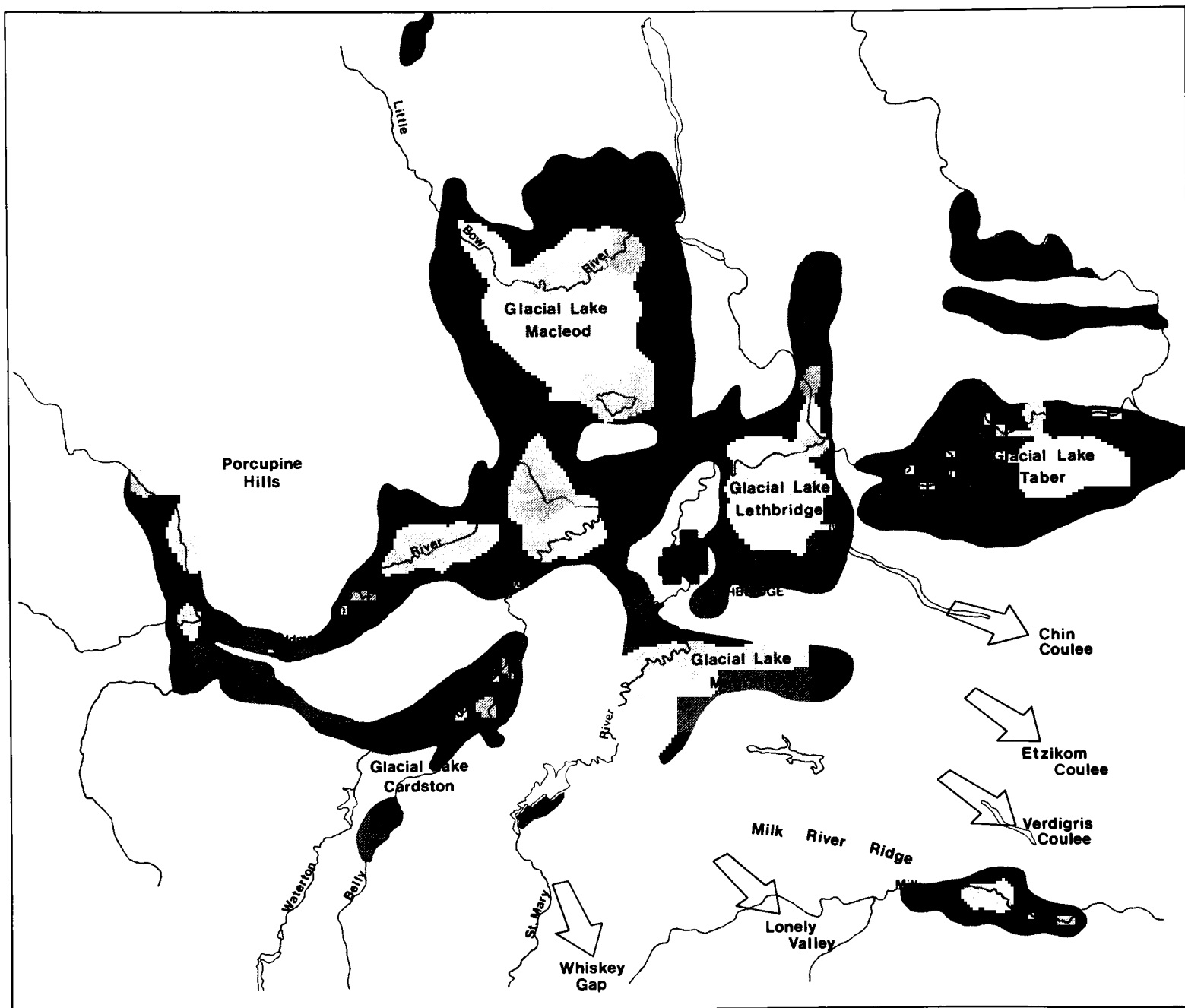
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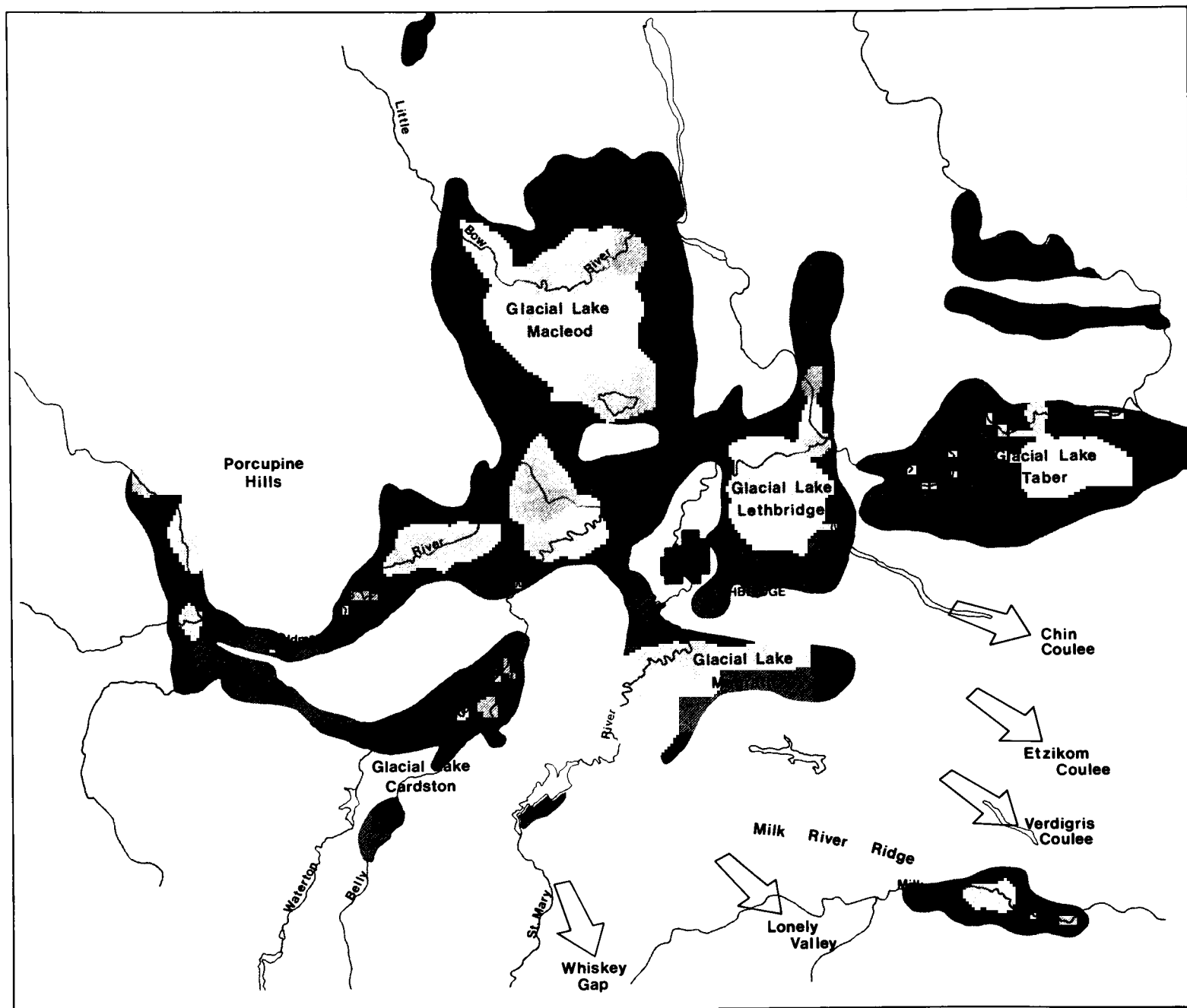
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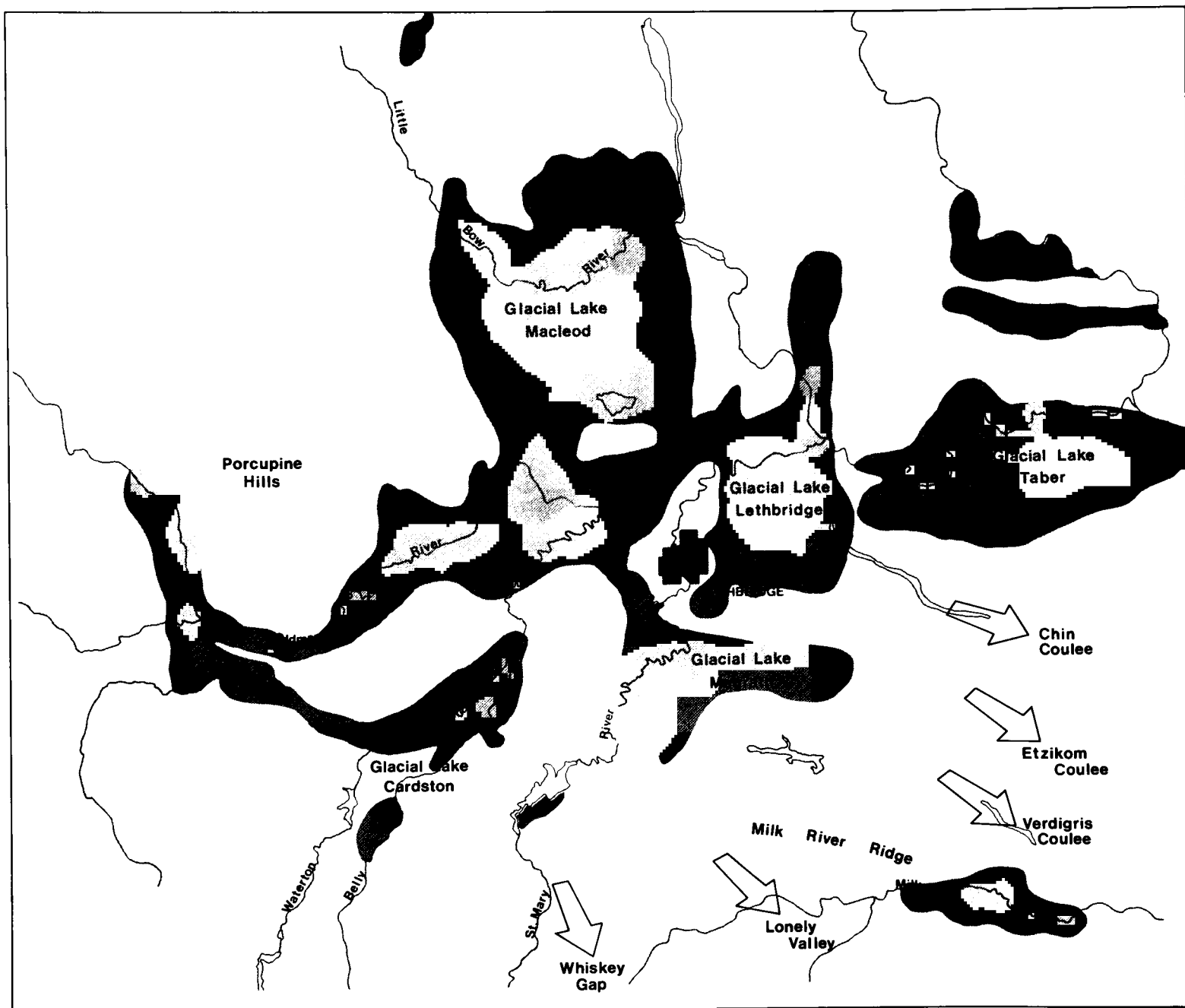
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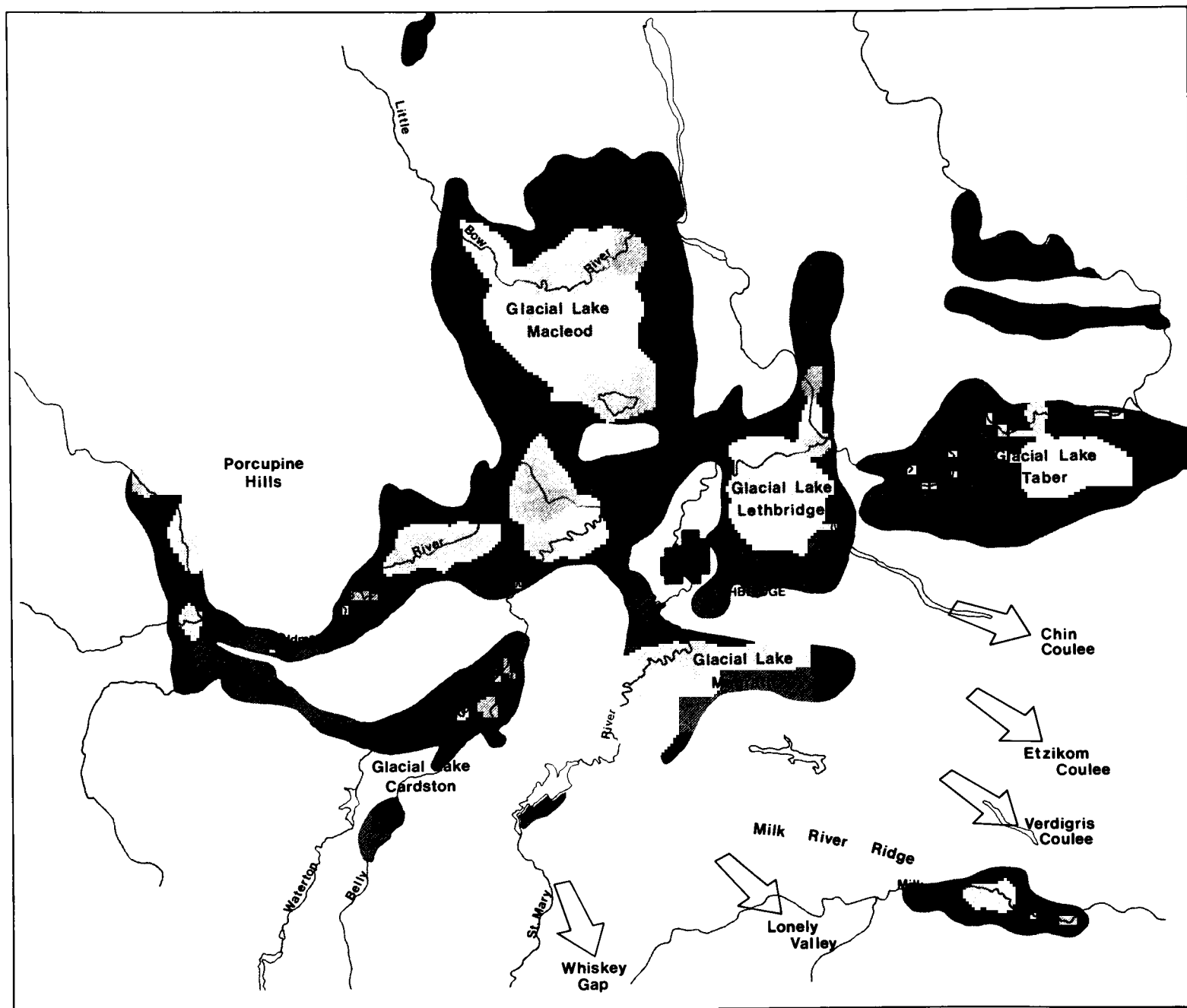
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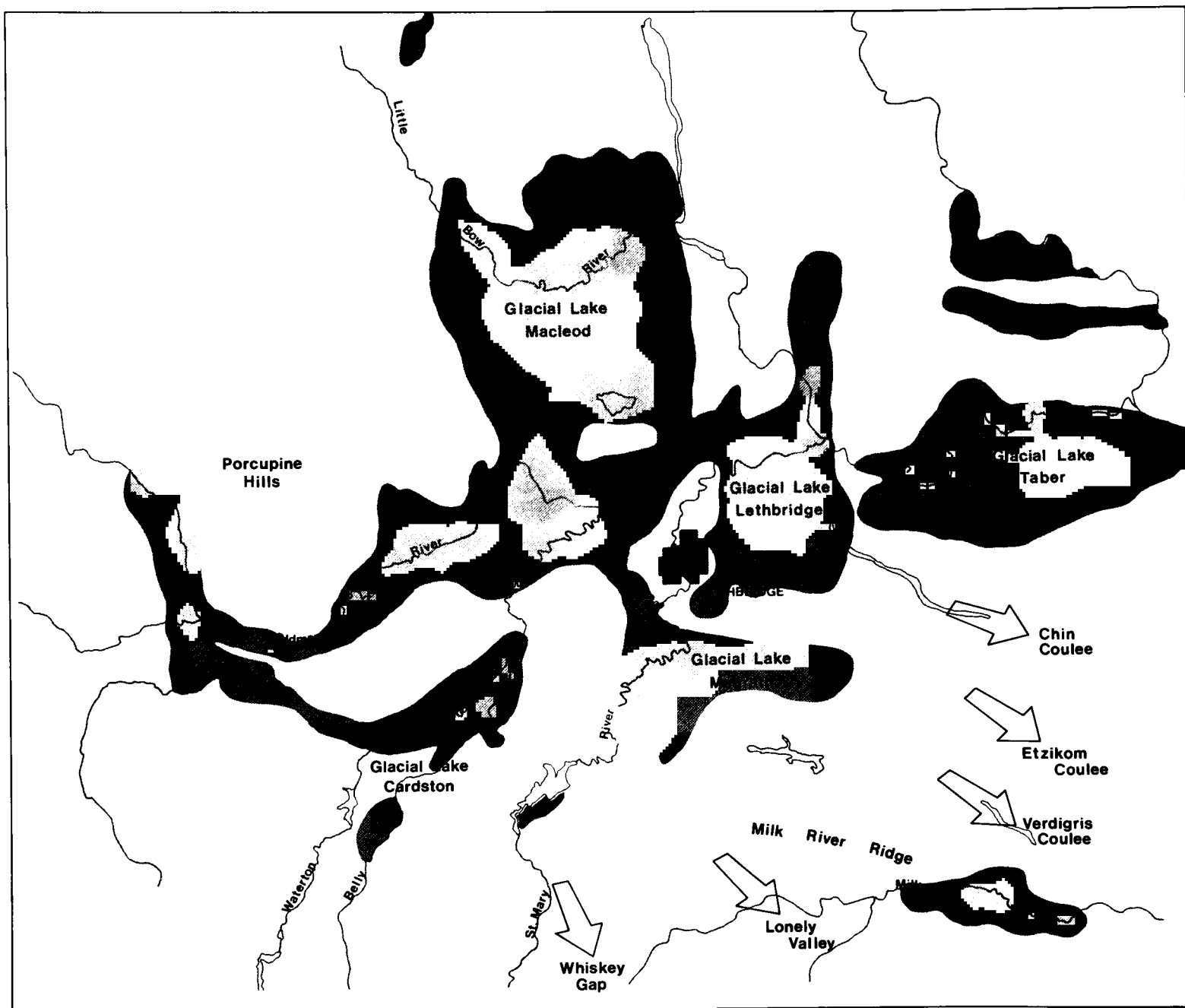
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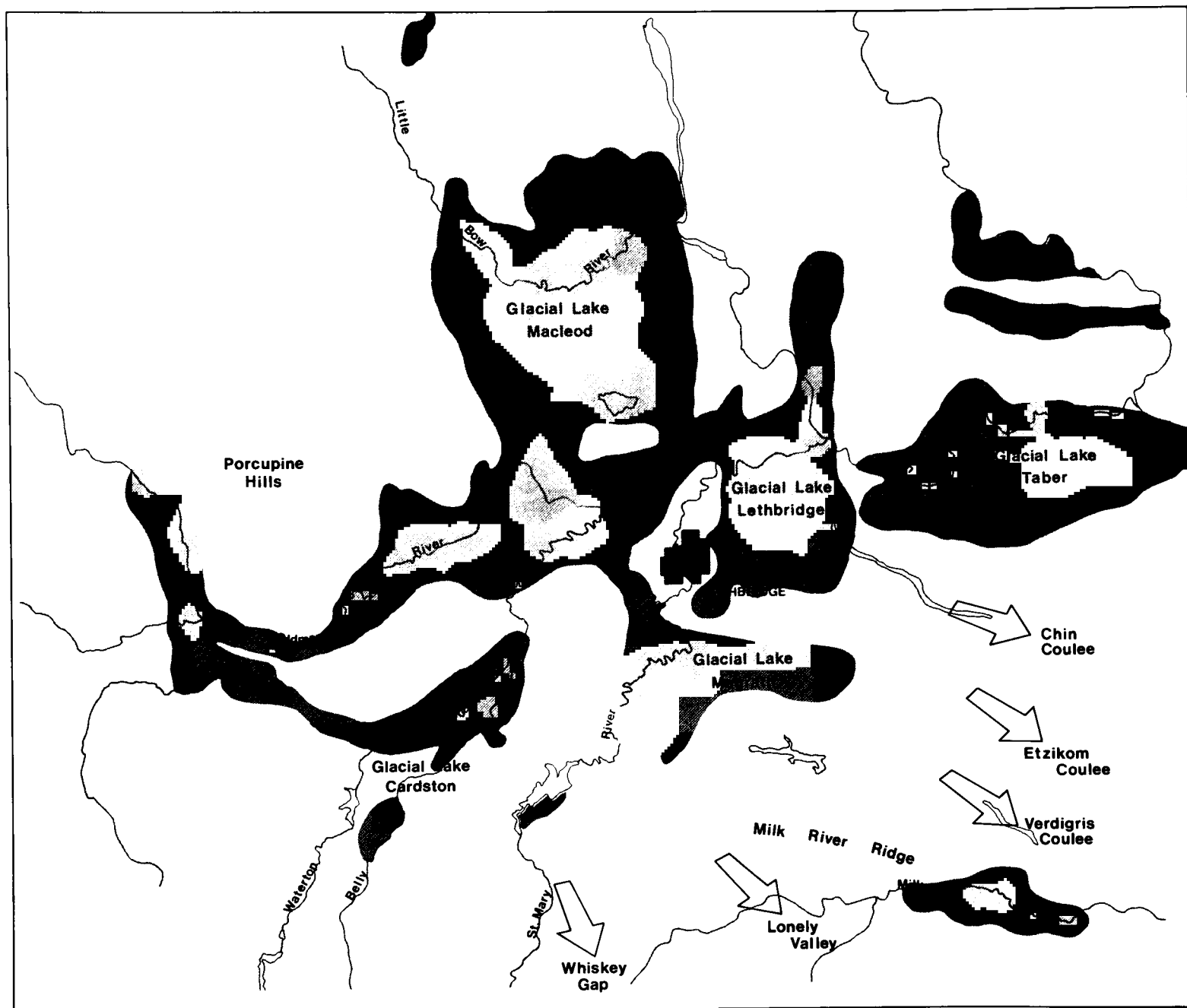
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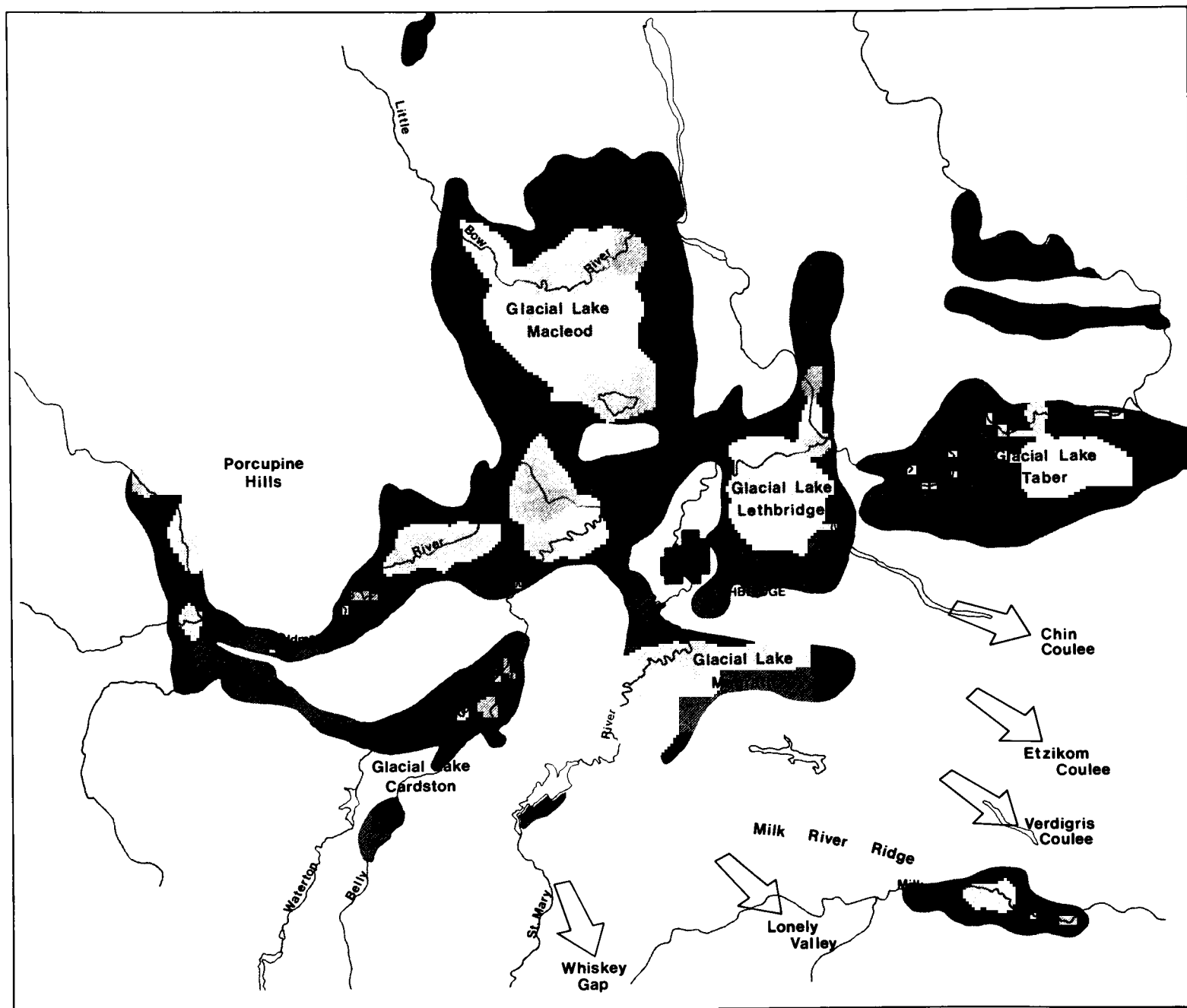
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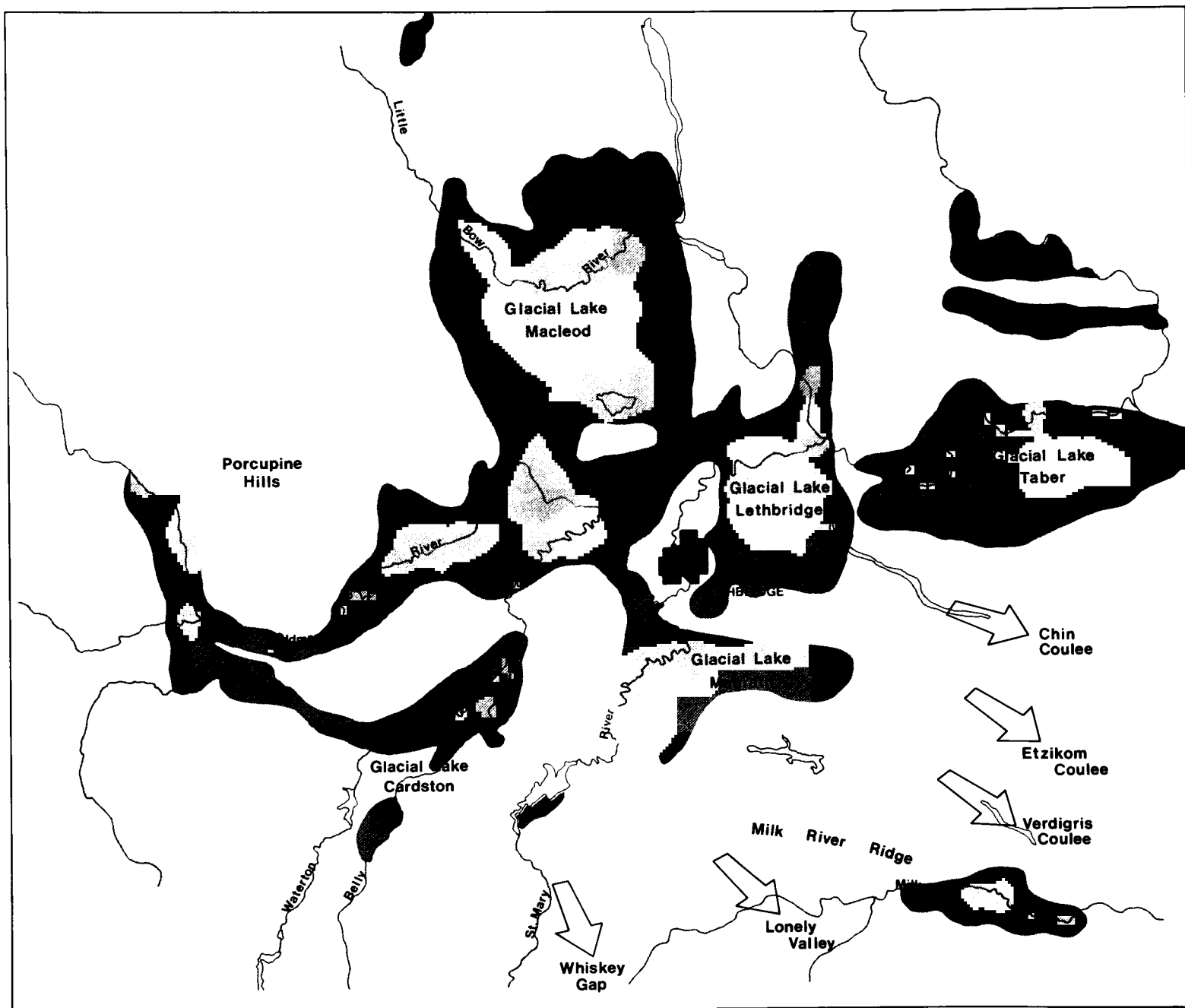
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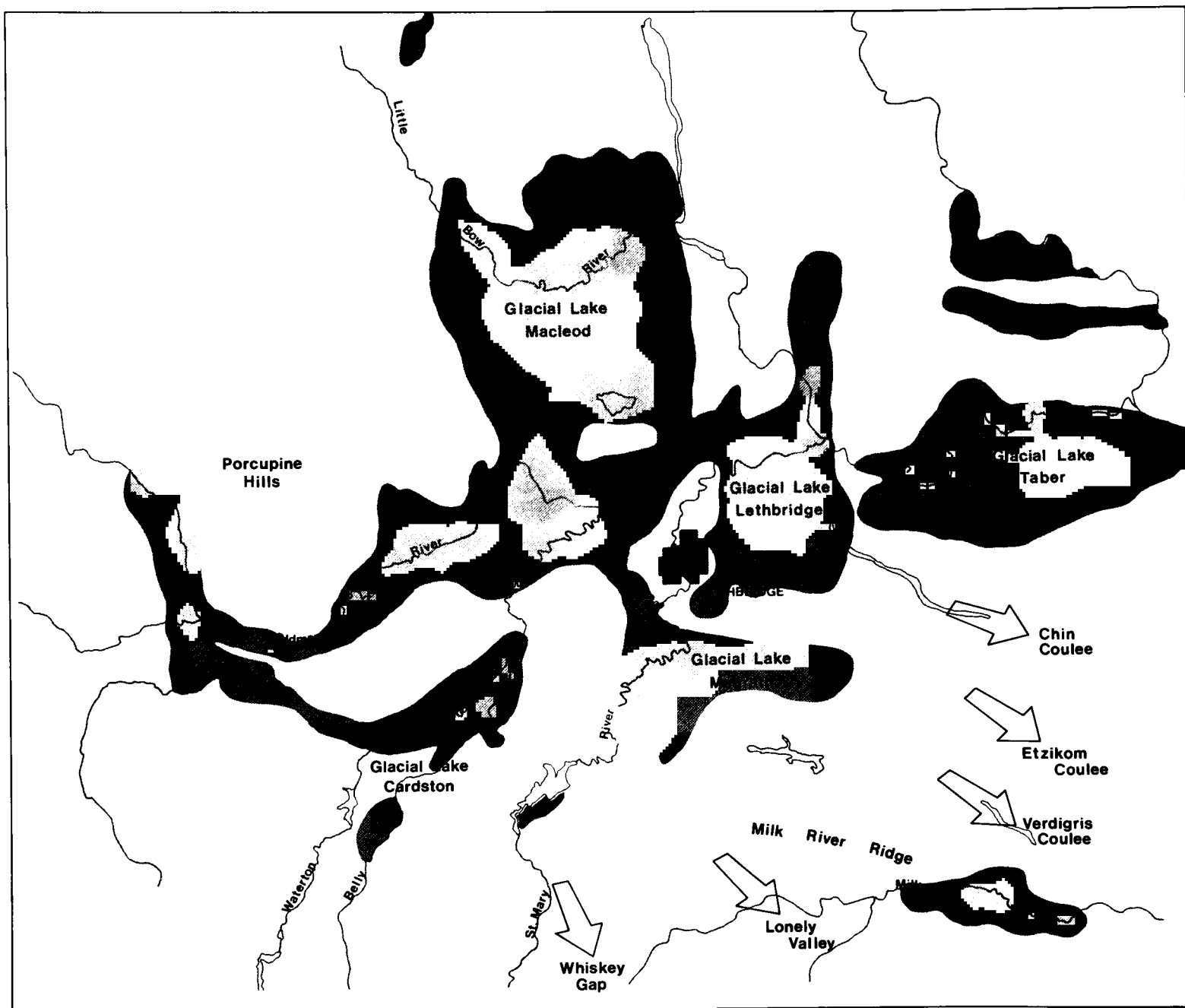
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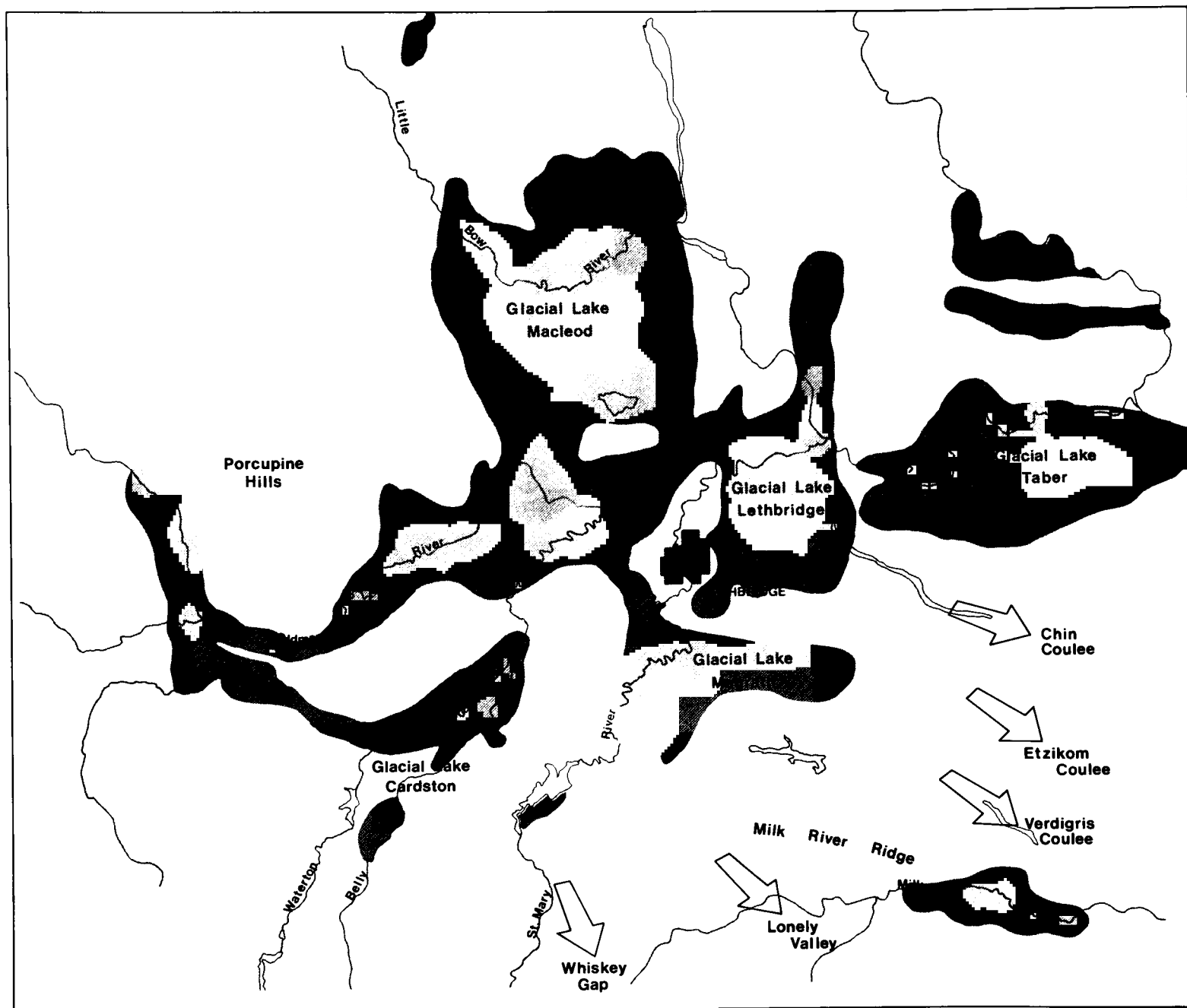
Lethbridge's other natural resources took nearly as long to create. At the beginning of the Tertiary Period, an enormous geological event dramatically transformed the southern Alberta landscape and climate. About 60 million years ago in the vicinity of today's Selkirk Mountains, tremendous pressures in the earth's crust thrust up an entire mountain range, a predecessor of today's Rockies. Simultaneously, the plains also rose, the shallow sea receded, and, hence, the interior lost the moderating influence of

a large body of water. When the new mountains blocked the warm, moisture-laden Pacific winds, Arctic air masses gained the upper hand and the climate became cool, dry and subject to seasonal fluctuations. New plants appeared in response to these profound climatic changes. They included species which produced seeds and thus suspended life during the cold season, trees which shed their leaves and thus endured the harsh winter months, and a few rudimentary grasses, which ceased to grow during the coldest and driest parts of the year.

As time passed, wind, water and ice wore down the mountains so that by about 30 million years ago all that remained were rounded hills. The warm, moist air masses from the Pacific once again circulated across the prairies and subtropical plants reappeared. Great rivers carried the debris of silts, sands and gravels from the mountains and deposited it in southern Alberta in a formation called Paskapoo. The Porcupine Hills and the upper parts of the Cypress Hills consist mostly of these sediments. (The Sweetgrass Hills, which also date from this period, are not sedimentary but rather intrusions of igneous rock called laccoliths.)

The sculpturing of the present day landscape of southern Alberta and the resulting climate began about 30 million years ago. The imperceptible movement of the earth's converging crustal plates slowly thrust up the modern Rocky Mountains. As before, the formation of the mountains drastically altered southern Alberta's climate. The region once again became cool, dry, and subject to seasonal variations. Three major air flows began to influence the climate and continue to do so today.

The most notable of these air flows are warm, dry winds from the west, called Chinooks. These begin when moisture-saturated air from the Pacific Ocean is deflected upward on reaching the coastal mountains. As the air mass expands and cools at higher altitudes, its moisture vapour is condensed and released as rain or snow. When the now cool-dry air mass reaches the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, it loses altitude, thus compressing and heating the flow. Then the warm-dry air mass sweeps over the interior foothills and plains, often at great velocity, and well



Glacial lakes of 12,000 to 15,000 years ago in southern Alberta and drainages.

Chapter One

Origins of Wealth

The origin and vitality of the City of Lethbridge are deeply rooted in its natural environment. The vast coal beds of southern Alberta attracted the entrepreneur and the miner, while the great expanse of fertile land lured the rancher and the farmer. When rainfall proved to be too scarce and too irregular for intensive agriculture, local rivers provided vital water supplies for irrigation. Coal, soil and water: these three resources gave Lethbridge its life and strength.

The creation of this natural wealth required an aeons-long process of geological and climatic changes, which slowly but relentlessly shaped and sculptured the landscape.

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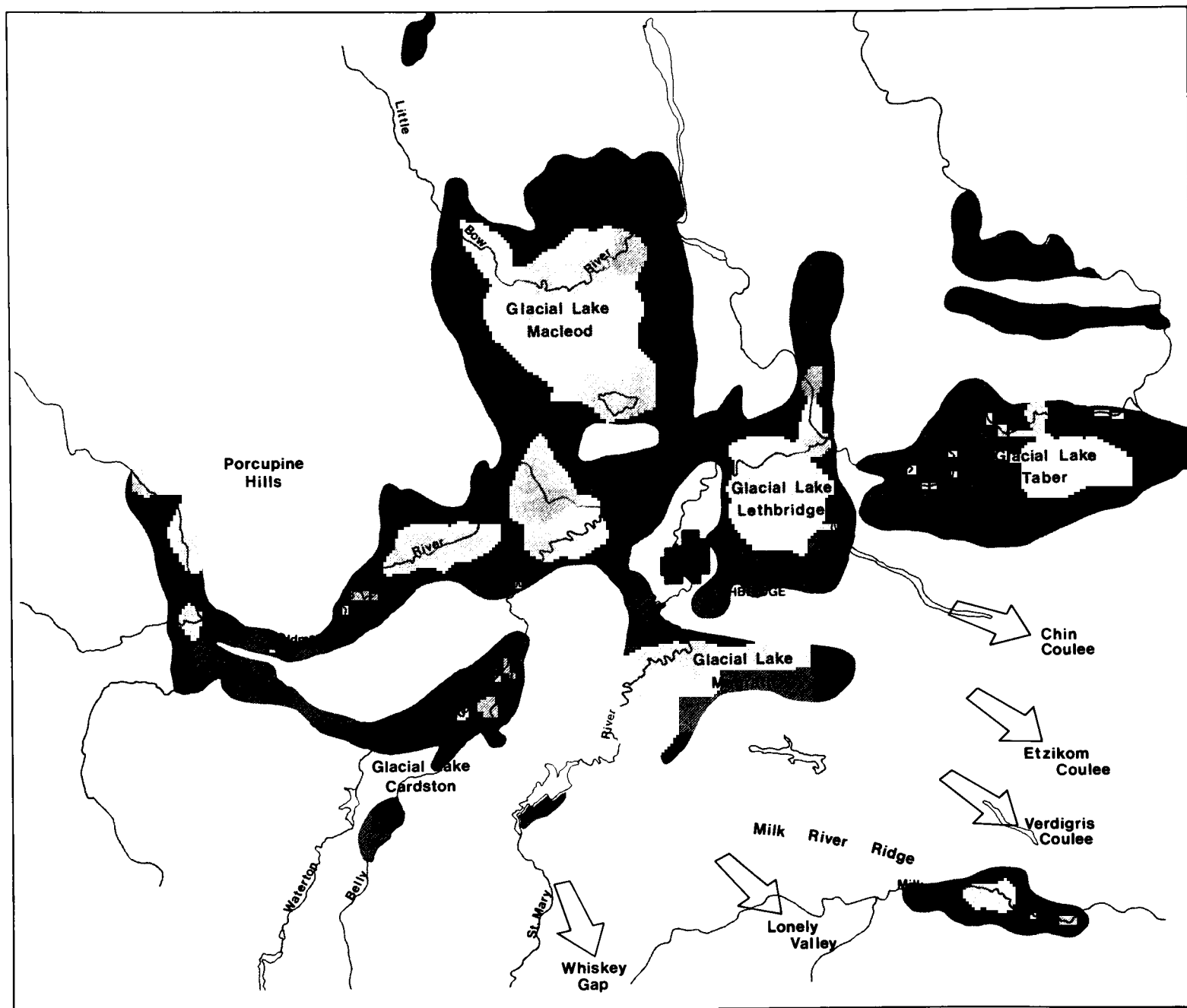
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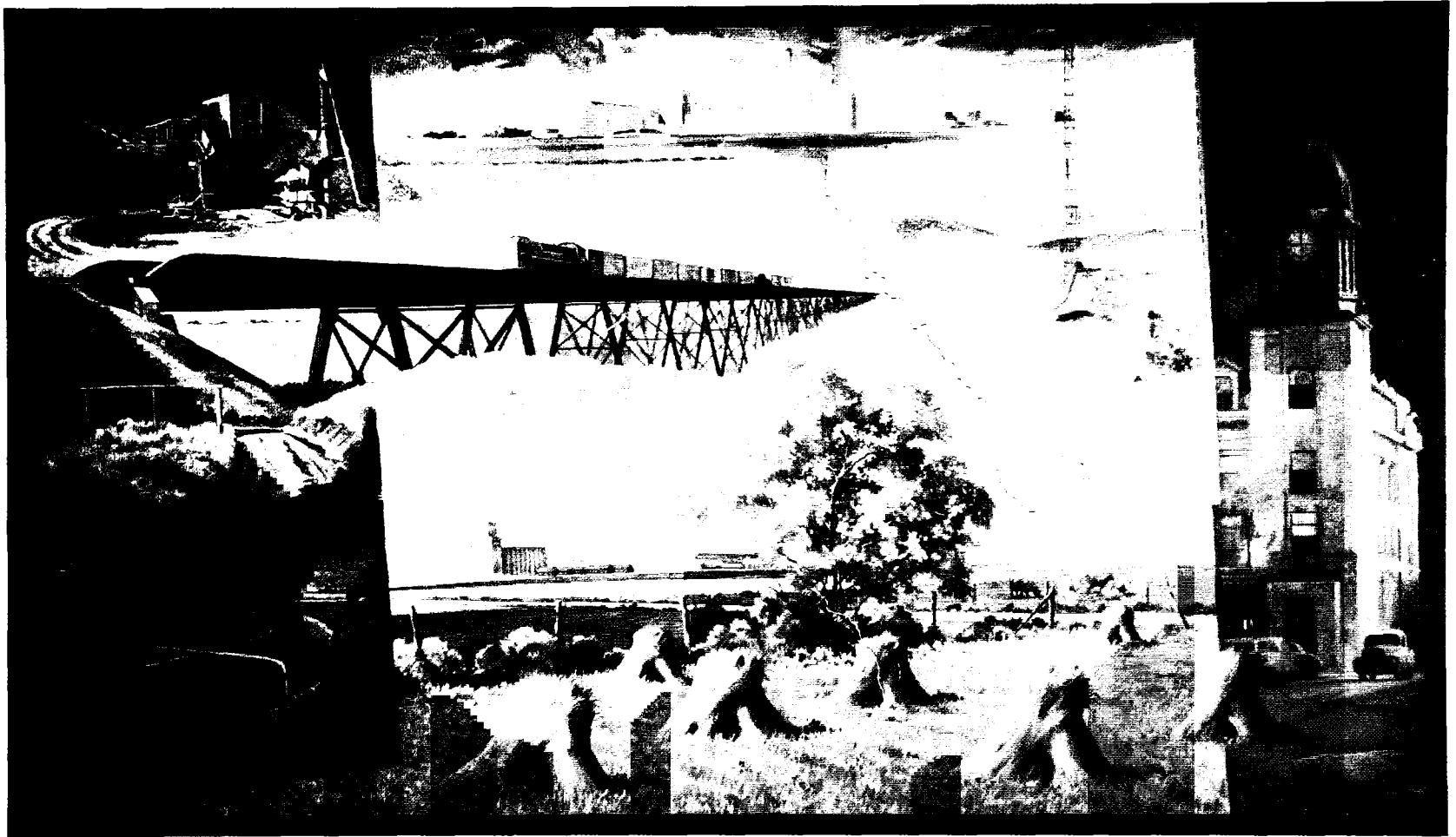
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LETHBRIDGE



A CENTENNIAL HISTORY

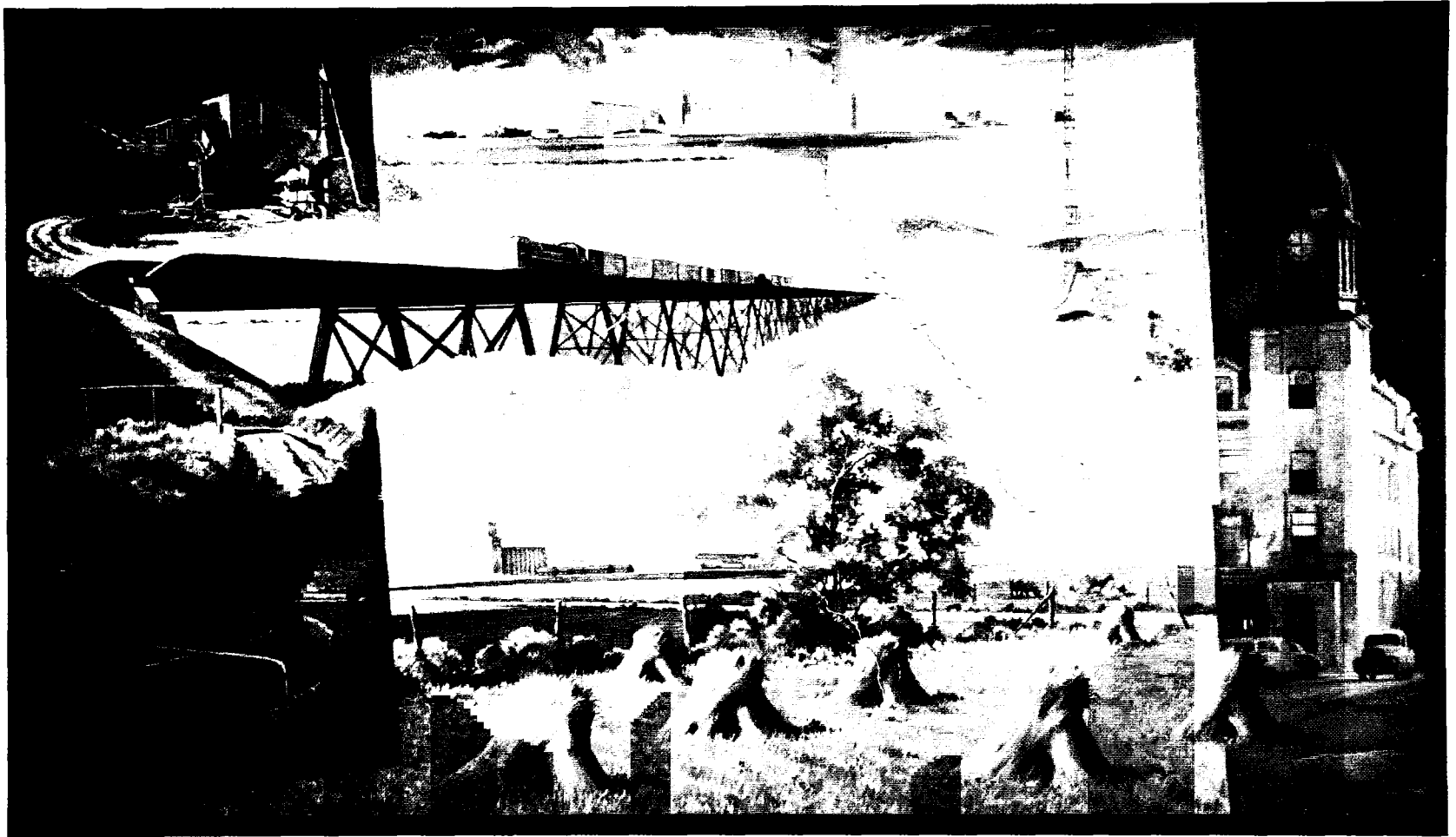
Alex Johnston/Andy den Otter

Cover Illustration

This mural was created by Donald Alwin (Don) Frache, prominent Canadian artist, in 1959. It was commissioned by Sven Ericksen, restaurateur, and was hung in the dining room of the Marquis Hotel, Lethbridge, where it is still located. The 6 x 14 foot mural depicts southern Alberta's prosperity through glimpses of agriculture, coal mining, oil and gas, and other industries. Model for the irrigator was John Deak, then general manager of Frache Bros., Ltd., florists; the automobile shown near the post office was lawyer Alan J. Cullen's 1952 Plymouth. Painting of the mural, because of its size, was done in a large room in the YMCA, then located at the corner of 4th Avenue and 10th Street South.

Color photograph by Edward A. (Ed) Keeling, A. E. Cross Studio; permission to use the mural courtesy of Don Frache, artist, and BelCor Hotels Ltd., owner of the Marquis Hotel.

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